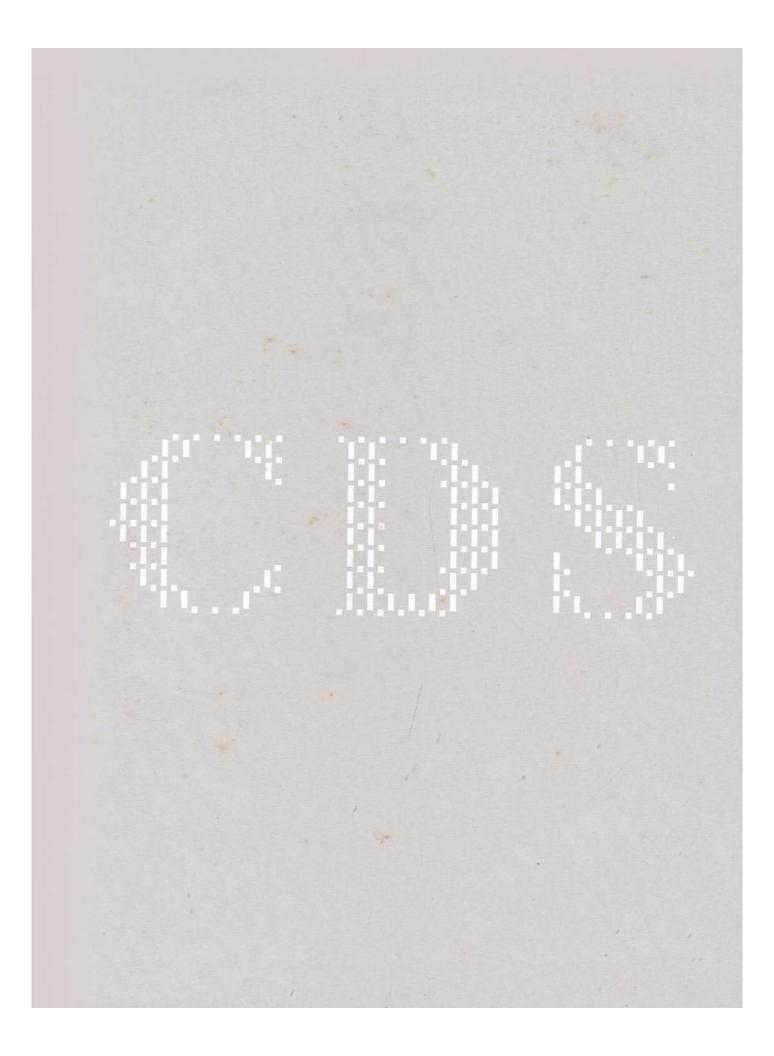


# MASTERPIECE OF A MASTER ARCHITECT CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

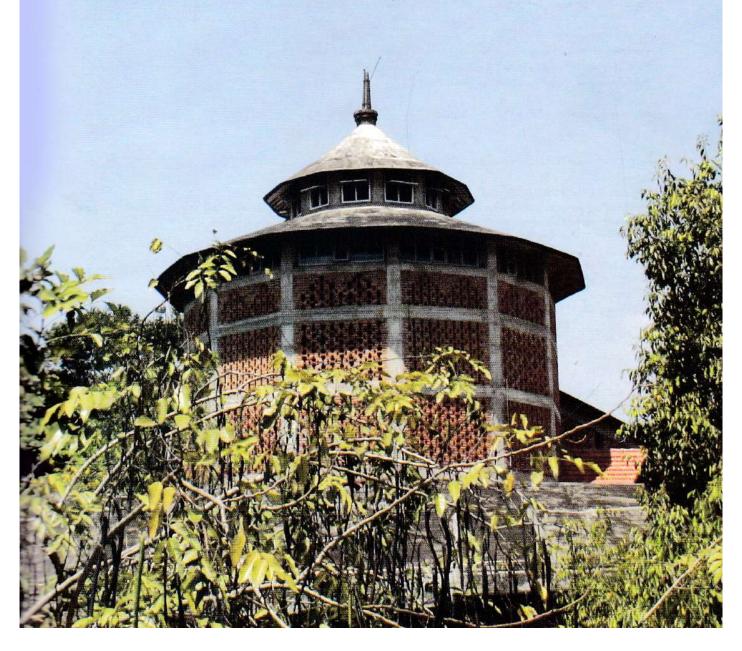








DESIGNED & EDITED BY JAYESH S. PILLAL



### MASTERPIECE OF A MASTER ARCHITECT: CDS DESIGNED & EDITED BY JAYESH S. PILLAI

Credits:

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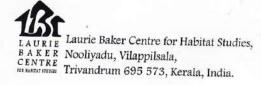
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### COSTFORD

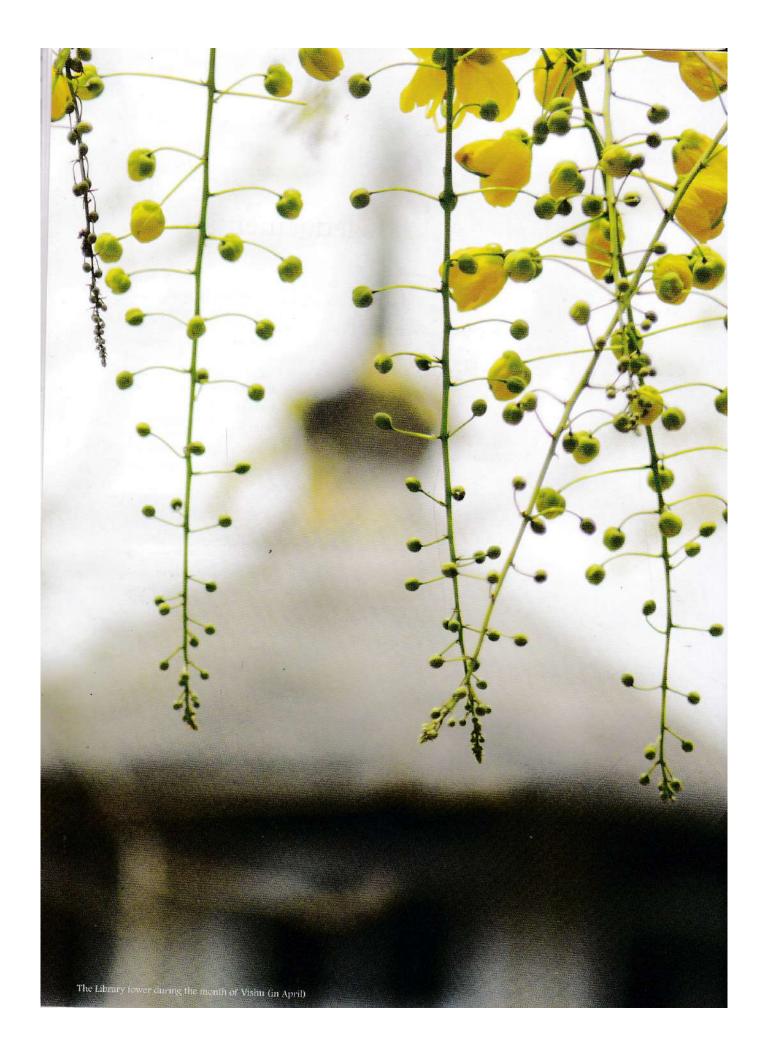
Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development, Ayyanthole, Thrissur 680003, Kerala, India.





Dedicated to 'Daddy'

by Workers and Volunteers of COSTFORD & LBC





### Preface and Acknowledgements

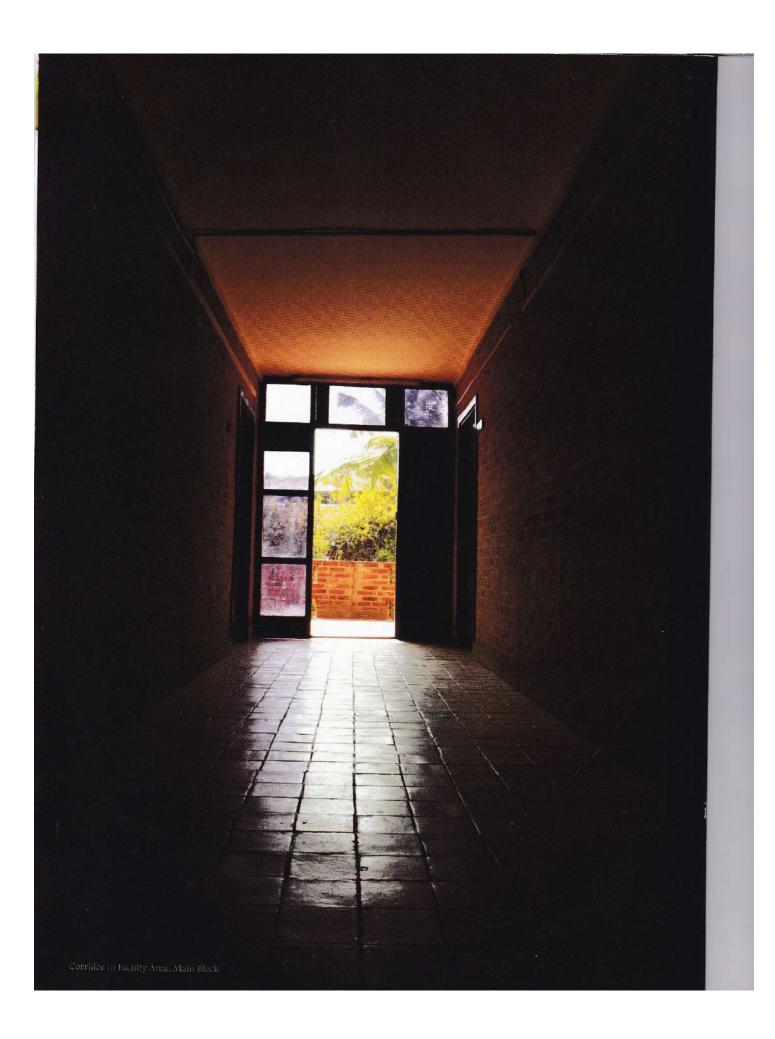
The Centre for Development Studies, known as CDS, was founded by the renowned economist K. N. Raj in 1971. It is entirely designed and constructed by the well known architect Laurie Baker. The campus is a beautiful showcase of his architectural philosophy and ideas. Among all his works, CDS stands out as one of the most critically acclaimed, influencing the thinking of architects around the world.

Just like his life and works, Laurie Baker himself was an exceptionally modest person who believed in being true to nature. It was on his 87th Birthday, 2nd March 2004, that a draft of this book titled 'CDS: The Vision of a New Architecture' was presented to him. He at once commented on the title saying that what he did was never 'new' but an extension of an age old approach to architecture in Kerala. We hope that the amended title would do justice to his thinking in every sense.

This publication is the collective effort of a number of persons. First and foremost is the dedicated work of Jayesh S. Pillai who compiled the various sketches and drawings produced over a period of time, refined them and took photographs of CDS and coordinated the project to bring it to a fruitful conclusion. A group of students from various colleges of architecture prepared drawings and sketches. We would like to put on record our appreciation for the work done by these students: Jerry, Om Prabhugaonkar, Pallavi Ghate, Raji Krishnan, Malaksingh Gill, Joginder Singh, Hareesh Kumar, Amay, Deepa, Saritha, Manju, Ajitha, Lerissa, Rajalakshmi, Prashanth Kumar Das, Paramanand Sinha, Rohit Srivastava, Ratna Raji, Sharanya, Rutu Panchal, Sunitha, Hardhik Lakhani, Vimal, Kundan Patel and many other students who were undergoing training with COSTFORD. From COSTFORD and the Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, Tilak Baker, Ranju Raveendran, Biju P. John, P.V. Krishnan, K. Raghavan Nair, P. P. Anoop Kumar, Aswathy, Adarsh Vishwam, G. S. Jayaram, Ajay Cherian, S. Goutham, Prahlad Gopakumar, V. K. Anilkumar and Shyamkumar P. extended their help and assistance in the preparation of this publication.

A special mention needs to be made of the services of P. B. Sajan, Joint Director of COSTFORD and Member Secretary of the Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, for his overall guidance and for organising this documentation as a team effort. R. D. Padmakumar and Shailaja Nair gave their valuable ideas and suggestions and also checked the various drafts and texts. Rutu Panchal extended her help in correcting and rendering the drawings. While the project took a considerably long time than what we planned for, we are happy that it has been possible to publish it.

T. R. Chandra Dutt Director, COSTFORD, Thrissur



### Foreword

This is perhaps the first attempt to document and publish one of the important creations of Laurie Baker. Ever since the establishment of the CDS it has attracted the attention of a lot of students of architecture as well as others interested in an aesthetically pleasing approach to building construction that, at the same time, is a cost effective alternative to existing technologies of building construction. However, it was only in 2003, that this idea of documenting and publishing the creation of CDS buildings occurred to some of us. It was during a conversation in early 2003 with Mr. P. B. Sajan, who was closely working with Laurie Baker as a Joint Director of COSTFORD that I broached this subject to which he readily agreed. In consultation with Mr. Chandra Dutt, the Director of COSTFORD, he immediately put together a team to collect and combine all the relevant materials and produced a draft that was presented to Laurie Baker on 2nd March 2004 in a function presided over by Prof. K.N. Raj. However, further work on the draft got delayed due to lack of the required personnel as well as availability of funds. At that time I was the Director of CDS as well as a Member of the Governing Board of COSTFORD. By the end of 2004 I moved to New Delhi on a national assignment and returned only after five years.

Subsequently we were lucky to get the services of a young architect Mr. Jayesh S. Pillai to work on this project that required coordination of a number of people. It is matter of great satisfaction that we are now in a position to publish this documentation.

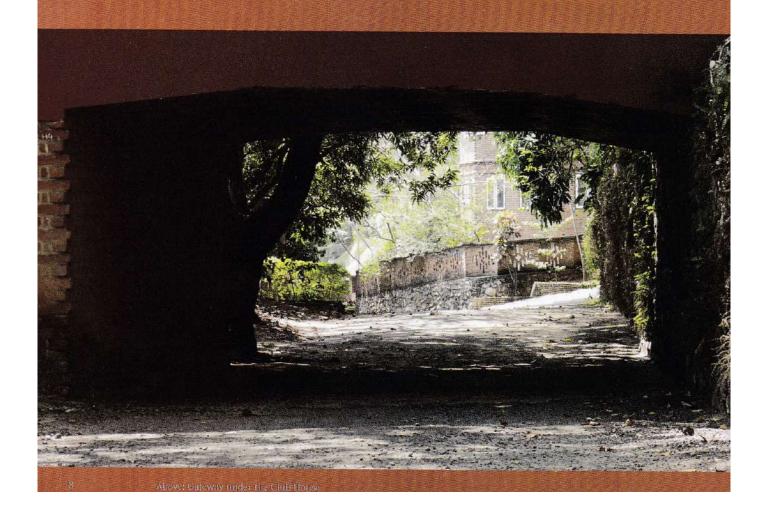
It is our hope that this will be a useful guide and reference book to students of architecture as well as those interested in the creative works of Laurie Baker who consistently strove to develop a people's architecture that is not only cost effective but also aesthetically appealing in a way that blends with the ecology of the surroundings. From my personal experience of interacting with Laurie Baker for a number of years it is my understanding that Laurie Baker's philosophy and approach to building construction is deeply rooted in what I would like to call Gandhian simplicity. It is not only cost effective but also encourages the use of locally available material; it is functional in the sense of utility of the space for which it is intended; it uses the natural light and breeze to the advantage of the functional requirements and, above all, it reduces waste. Despite these qualities, Baker's philosophy and approach to building construction is confined to a small body of people in Kerala including architects, builders and owners of buildings. Despite the whole-hearted support and appreciation of the then Chief Minister of Kerala, Sri. C. Achutha Menon (1969-77), who was instrumental in promoting Laurie Baker's approach, the Government system is yet to approve this technology and philosophy of building construction. The only exception is that of Local Self Governments who have been given the autonomy to choose from alternative building construction technologies including that of Laurie Baker. However the Baker approach to building construction is not only appreciated but adopted by a number of discerning individuals and organizations across the country for its aesthetic beauty, cost effectiveness and environmental sustainability. This has also given rise to the emergence and flourishing of a number of private and social organisations engaged in developing alternative approaches and technologies in building construction in Kerala and elsewhere in India that may broadly be called Bakerian.



As followers of the philosophy of Laurie Baker, we are quite encouraged by the interest shown by organizations of architects, training institutions, and individual architects and builders and a wider body of people distinguished for their concern for environmental sustainability. That more of them are from outside Kerala make us happier because the message is travelling far and wide. Now that the philosophy and concept of Green Economy is getting increasing acceptance among governments as well as the society at large, we are hopeful that the Bakerian philosophy and approach will be felt more and more relevant as time passes by.

It is in this spirit that we are publishing this book in the hope that some among the future generation of architects and builders will find this Baker approach more acceptable and environmentally more sustainable.

K. P. Kannan Chairman, COSTFORD and Chairman, Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies, Trivandrum 2nd October 2012



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# VISION

### The Vision

T h e

Centre for Development Studies
(CDS) was conceptualised in 1970, as an institute of
applied economics research, by the noted economist Dr. K. N.
Raj and Mr. C. Achutha Menon, the former Chief Minister of Kerala
along with other eminent Indian economists.

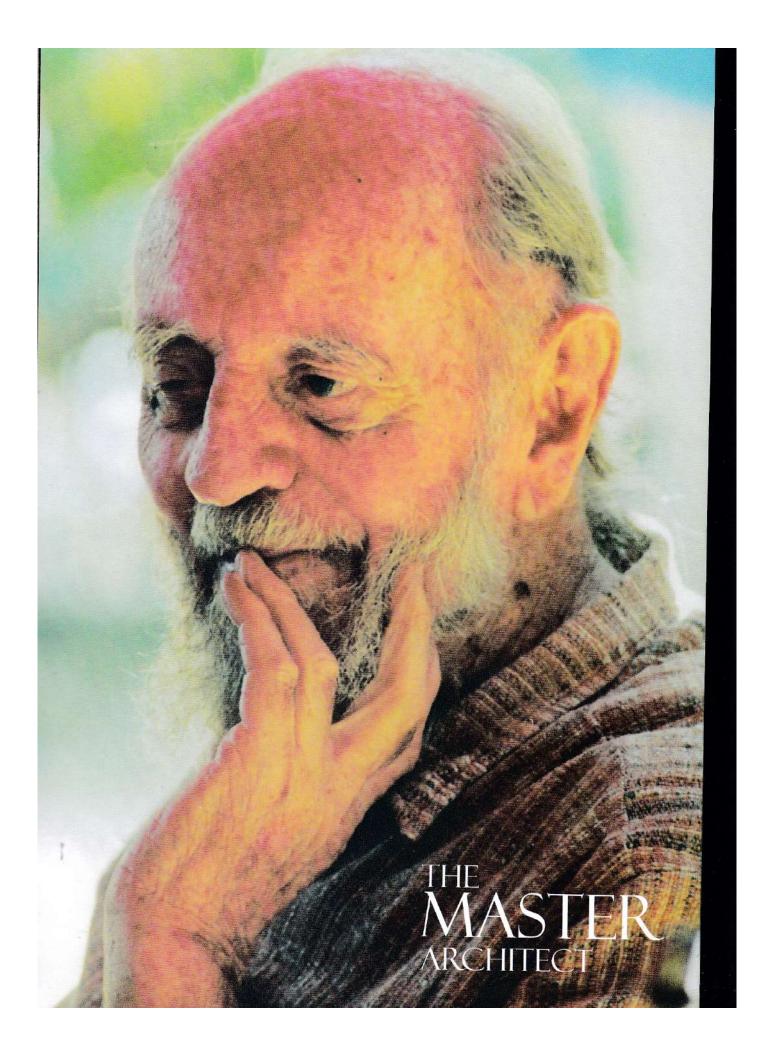
The main objective of the Centre is to promote research and teaching in the disciplines relevant to development. The intention was that the Centre would concern itself with development problems relating to the country as a whole, though it was also recognised that, for securing a clearer perception of these problems, disaggregated analysis at the grassroot level would be necessary. It was further visualised that the Centre would develop collaborative relationships with planning and development agencies, as well as scientific and technological research institutions, and establish close links with universities within Kerala and outside, in its academic activities.

From the outset the Centre was conscious of the need for economising its expenditure on buildings. The architectural concepts developed by Laurie Baker seemed particularly appropriate for an institution devoted to the study of economic and development problems. Consequently the design and construction of the buildings for the Centre was entrusted to Baker as a challenge to the economists to demonstrate and prove their theories by the way in which they built and ran their institution.

The Centre for Development Studies was registered as a society in September 1970 under the Travancore Cochin Literary, scientific and Charitable Societies Act. The Centre started functioning with a nucleus staff by the middle of 1971.

The picturesque campus on a 9-acre site situated on a hillock in the city of Thiruvananthapuram, combines rippling brick walls coiled around trees, circular courtyards, a network of creative walkways, roof terraces, and a remarkable seven-storied library tower.

This masterpiece of Baker is an inspiration or rather a revelation for architects who acknowledge the significance of nature friendly and energy efficient buildings.





### Laurence Wilfred Baker

#### 2 March 1917- I April 2007

- 1917 Born in Birmingham, England.
- 1929 1933 Educated at King Edwards Grammar School, Aston.
- 1933 1938 Birmingham School of Architecture.
- 1938 Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA).
- 1945 Settled in India (Architect to international Leprosy Mission).
- 1948 Married Dr. Elizabeth Jacob (from Kerala) working in Hyderabad.
- 1970 Fellow of Indian Institute of Architects.
- 1981 D. Litt conferred by the Royal University of Netherlands for outstanding work in the Third World.
- 1983 Order of the British Empire, M.B.E.
- 1985 Founded COSTFORD along with C. Achutha Menon, K. N. Raj and T. R. Chandra Dutt.
- 1985 Functioned as Director of COSTFORD.
- 1987 Received the first Indian National Habitat Award.
- 1988 Secured Indian Citizenship.
- 1989 Indian Institute of Architects Medal 'Outstanding Architect of the year'.
- 1990 Great Masters 'Architect of the year'.
- 1990 Government of India confers Padma Shree.
- 1992 United Nations Habitat Award & UN Roll of Honour.
- 1993 International Union of Architects (I.U.A.) Award.
- 1993 Sir Robert Matthew Prize for Improvement of Human Settlements.
- 1994 'People of the Year' Award.
- 1994 Indian Institute of Architects Gold Medal.
- 1995 Honorary Doctorate Conferred by the University of Central England.
- 1998 Honorary Doctorate (Science) Conferred by Sri. Venkateshwara University, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- 2001 Coinpar M. R. Kurup Endowment Award.
- 2003 Basheer Puraskaram.
- 2003 Honorary D. Litt Conferred by the Kerala University.
- 2005 Kerala Government Certificate of Appreciation.
- 2005 L-Ramp Award of Excellence.
- 2007 Deceased.

The Architecture of Laurie Baker is a natural extension of who he was as a person. Having dedicated his life to serve the marginalised and the underprivileged, his buildings are a reflection and expression of his concern for the greater good of society.

same time he was amazed by the wealth of vernacular knowledge of the common man, which provided simple but effective solutions.

As a young architect, when Baker came to India to work with the Leprosy Mission in

the most remote parts of the country, he was both excited and dismayed at his situation. He found that his architectural education and experience of the industrialised, early-twentieth century England was of little or no use in this remote and traditional context. At the

He soon began educating himself in the craft and processes of vernacular architecture. His job took him to the length and breadth of the country, providing him with the opportunity to experience and assimilate a variety of regional approaches to architecture.

During much of the seventeen years in Pittoragarh, Baker served as an assistant to his wife, Dr. Elizabeth, in running her hospital. Although his architectural work became secondary, he still has a sizeable portfolio for the period. The notable projects during this time include the State Museum-Lucknow, the first Psychiatric Hospital in India and Literacy village-Lucknow.

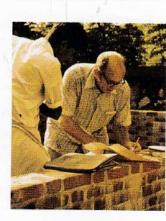
With the advent of modern development in Pittoragarh, the Bakers decided to move their base to the south Indian state of Kerala. Here again they set up a hospital Mitraniketan, in the underdeveloped highlands of Vagamon. Baker could dedicate more time for architecture. His contribution during this period was mainly religious and institutional buildings besides housing. The educational needs of his children (among other things) prompted Baker to shift once again to the more urban Thiruvananthapuram in 1969.

After living in a house at Vellanad (Mitraniketan that he built for Rs.

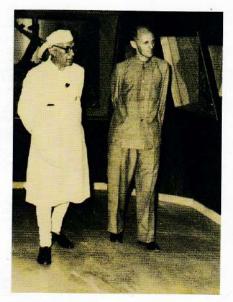
Left: Baker with Pandit Jawaharlar Nehru at Lucknow State Museum Below: Baker at a work site

Below Right: Baker's own house 'The Hamlet'

Left: (from left to right) Dr. K. P. Kannan, Ar. P. B. Sajan, Dr. K. N. Raj and Baker at CDS Right: Baker In front of the Computer Centre at CDS







2500/-) Baker bought a piece of land at Nalanchira that became 'The Hamlet', his eventual home. It was from his one room office at the Hamlet that he would steer his architectural and building work for the next four decades. The then Archbishop of Thiruvananthapuram, Benedict Mar Gregarious got interested in the cost effective work of Laurie Baker and invited him to build a few prototype houses in his official compound on a challenging budget of Rs.2500/-. Baker soon became the talk of the town and a symbol of hope for the masses, who could now own their dream houses on a shoe-string budget.

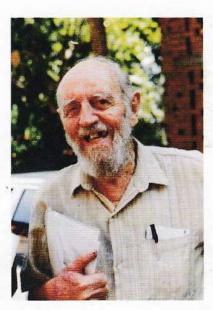
The then Chief Minister of Kerala Shri. C. Achutha Menon, who is known for his pro-poor welfare economics, was keen on making Bakers cost effective approach part of mainstream thinking. Until now, Bakers work was largely in the private sector, especially his technological solutions that were rejected by the government agencies such as P.W.D. Mr. Achutha Menon approached Baker for a temporary building for The State Institute of Languages. Baker could successfully complete the project for a fraction of the estimates of the government agencies.

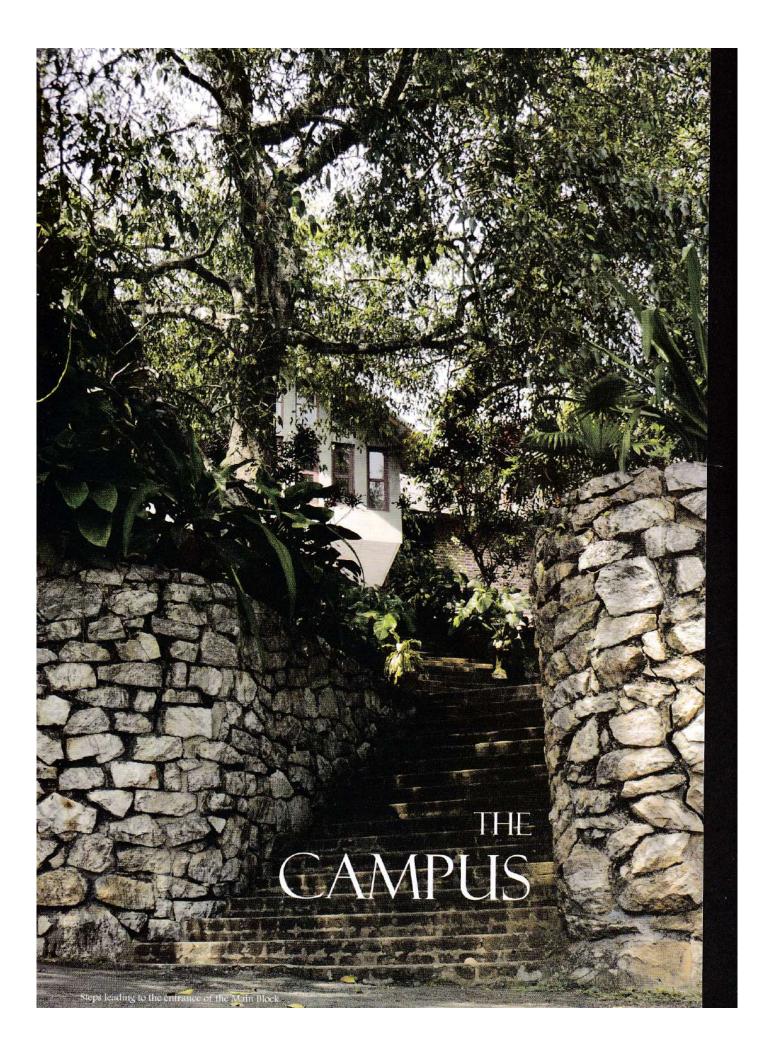
Meanwhile Mr. Menon was negotiating with some eminent Indian economists including K. N. Raj, about the possibility of starting a centre for economic studies in the state. The centre was to be a base for research and scholarship on economics in general with a focus on the economic challenges particular to the state of Kerala. The creative exploration of development and its alternatives that formed the subject of this institution resonated well with Bakers personal quest for an alternative approach to architecture. Baker was appointed architect to design this institution that became the Centre for Development Studies (CDS).



The Centre that had very modest beginnings in 1970 with a library block and few residential units has been continuously growing with a new block being added every few years, the most recent being the Extended Library Tower in 2007.

Although Baker designed several Government institutions and buildings in the subsequent years, CDS stands out as a landmark project in his portfolio. Over the years, the Centre has not only attracted students of economics but a steady stream of architectural students, who come to be introduced to the work of Laurie Baker in a place that best exemplifies his approach to architecture.









Site Plan

### Evolution of the campus

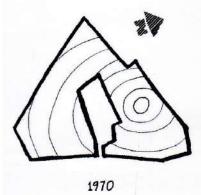


Laurie Baker had to share that vision which was to take shape on a nine acre barren plot on a hillock, near Ulloor, 8Km from Thiruvananthapuram city centre. At the very beginning of their discussion, Dr. Raj told Baker that a library was pivotal for the centre, and must be at the heart of the campus with easy access to every other building of various disciplines or specialisations. Baker put to them the idea of a wheel with its hub at the centre as the library. The idea was immediately accepted as it could fully incorporate the concept regarding buildings of varying functions, scale and dimensions. It also became a platform for Baker to combine his experience with traditional ways of construction and his experiments in using common building materials with ingenuous and innovative ideas.

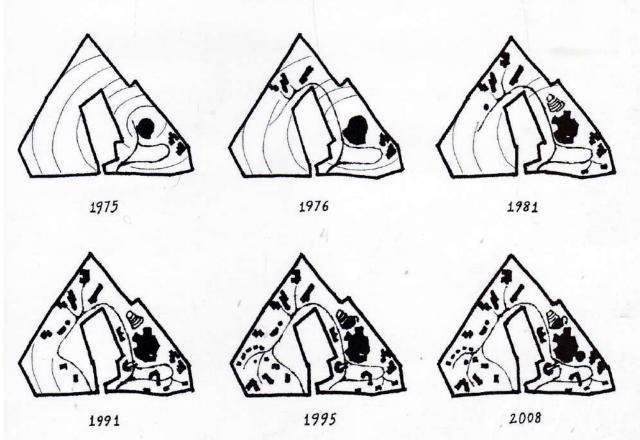
The CDS campus was not the time-bound execution of a ready-made plan. It was rather organic; growing with the needs of the institution. Originally the library was conceived as something modest which took shape at the focal point of the site. As titles in the different disciplines started pouring in, the campus grew consequently over the years. Baker clearly watched over the construction of this complex with great passion.

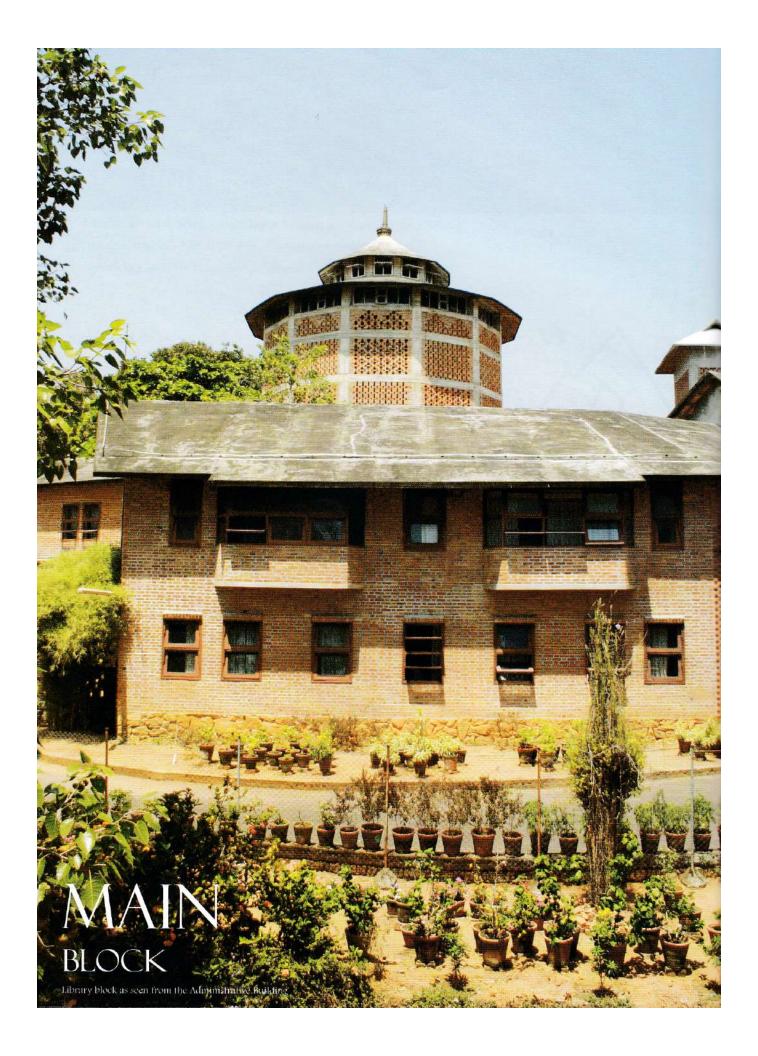
An outline of various stages of evolution of the CDS campus is shown on the following page.

After the land was acquired, it was a major challenge for the architect as well as the economists struggling to bring CDS into existence. The whole site was a barren land on top of a hill in a place now called Prasanth Nagar.



The initial days were hard trying to find a place which could act as an office during the construction work. As the Main Library structure started rising, beside it Baker built a residence in parallel, where everyone working for this project could stay and watch over the construction (Residence-I in site plan). It eventually became the hub of creative discussions on the architectural work as well as concerning the decisions on the administration of CD S.





1. Entrance Foyer

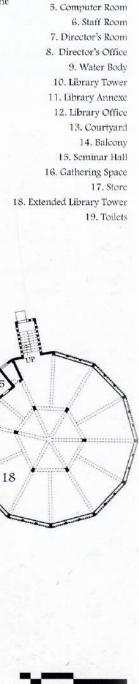
3. Publication Room

4. Despatch Room

2. Reception



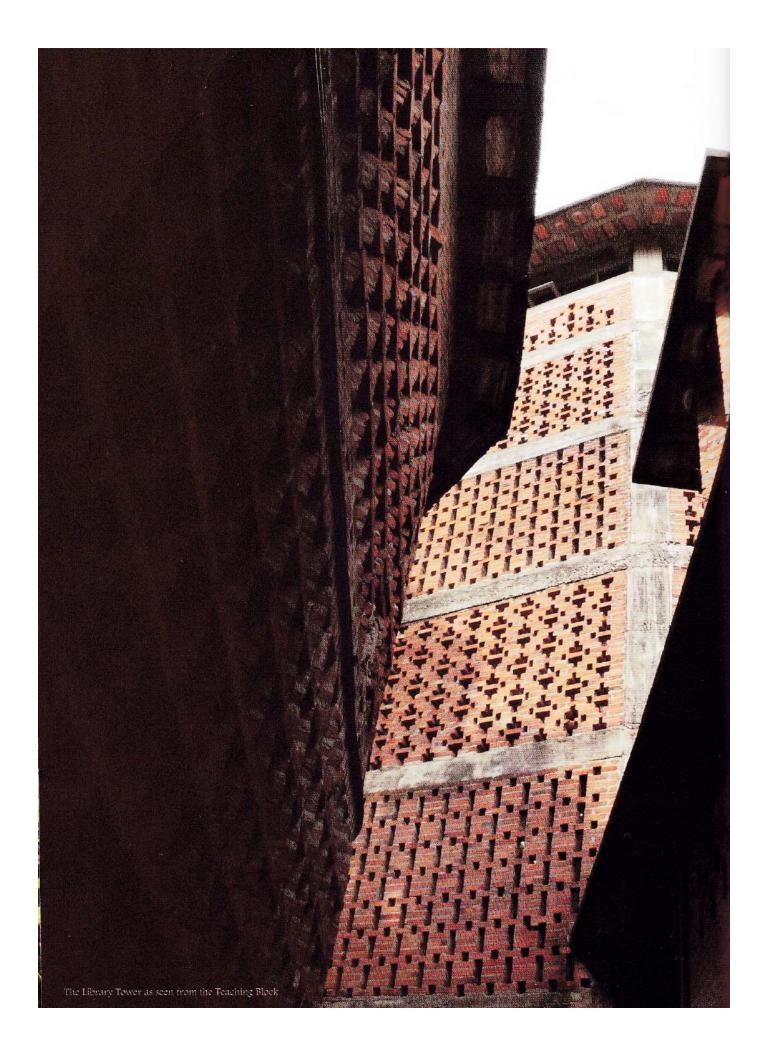
The Main Block was the first building to be erected on the campus, with its core perfectly located at the highest as well as the focal point of the site. The Entrance Foyer has to its left the Teaching Block and to its right the Directors Office overlooking the water body. A flight of steps from the foyer leads to the library block.



17

13

12



1. Lecture Hall

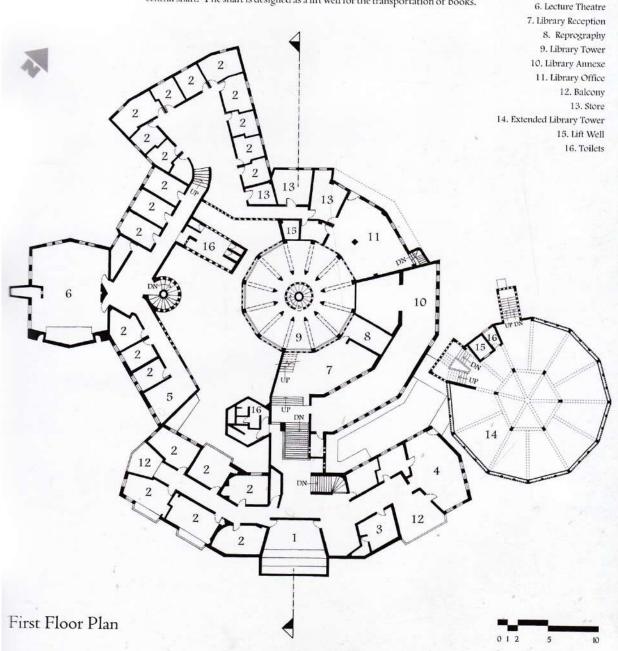
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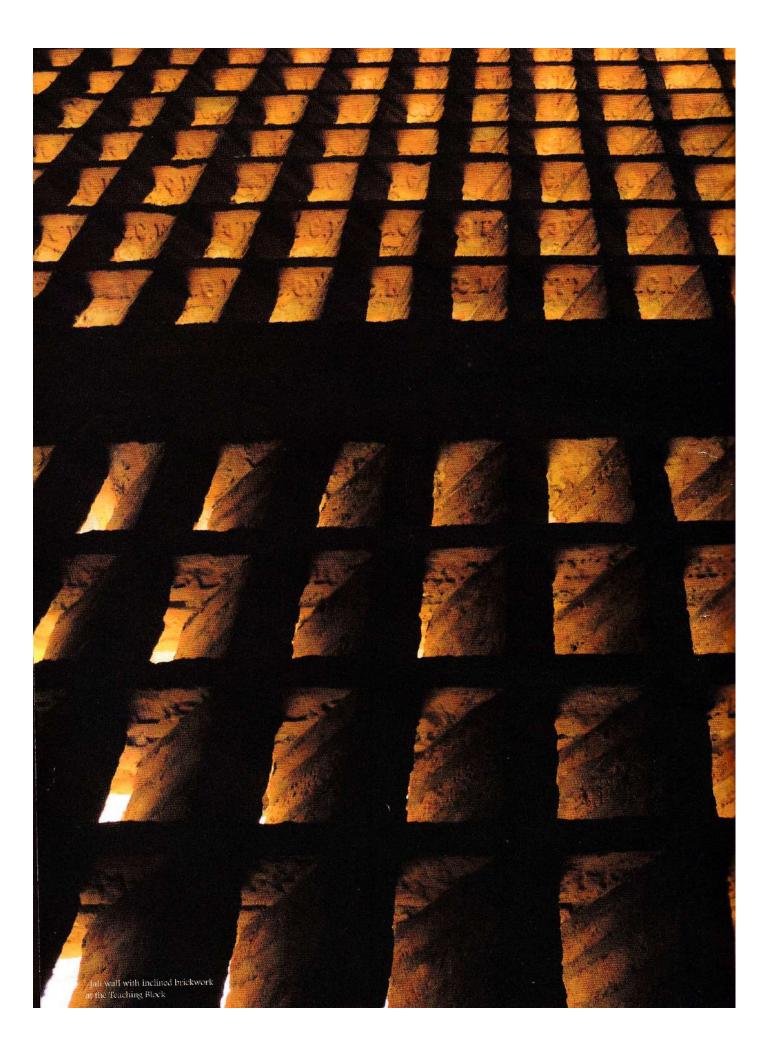
Faculty Room
 GNOU Centre

M.Phil Classroom
 P.H.D. Classroom



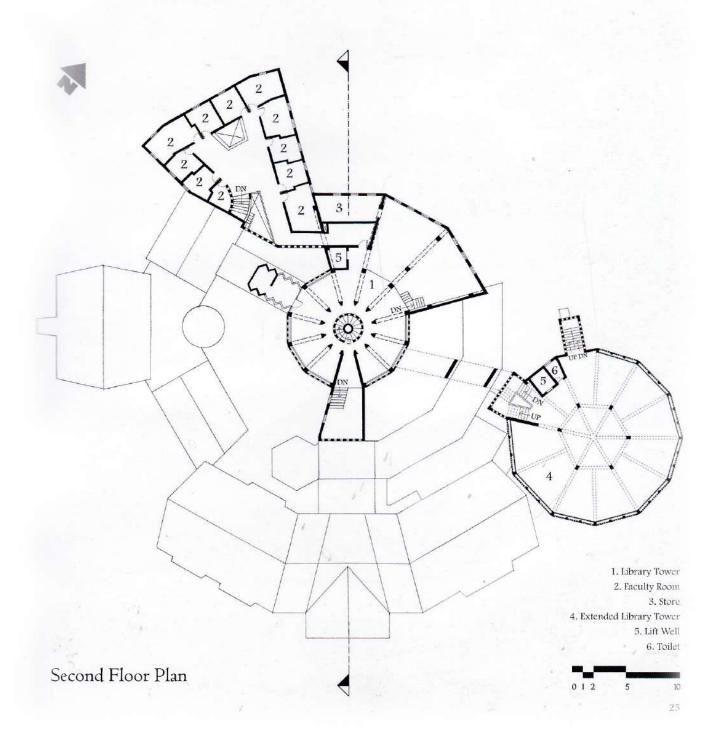
The Library Tower is a twelve sided polygon extending to seven storeys. Its most remarkable feature is the load distribution system in the structure. The book racks test on inverted beams transferring the load of thousands of books directly onto the frame. The access to the floors is through a spiral staircase that winds around a central shaft. The shaft is designed as a lift well for the transportation of books.

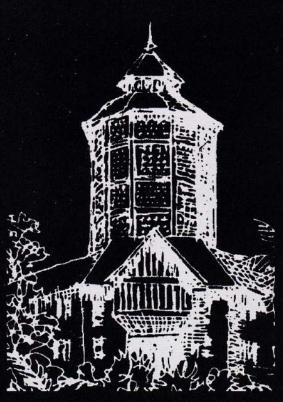




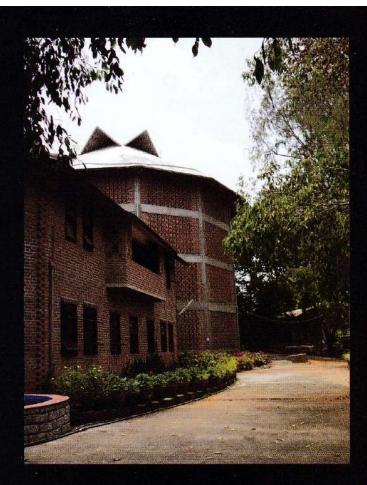


The most striking visual element of CDS buildings is its original jali patterns that create a play of light in the internal spaces. The various cost effective techniques used in the construction add to the comfort inside these buildings, especially making the interiors cooler than the exterior.





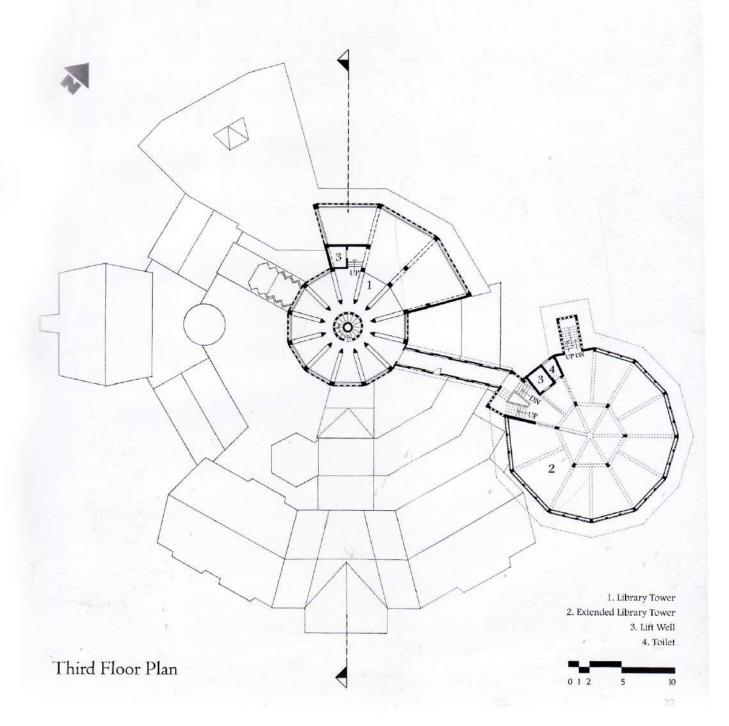
Above: Baker's sketch of the Main Building Right: The Extended Library Tower Below: View of the Teaching Block from the Computer Centre

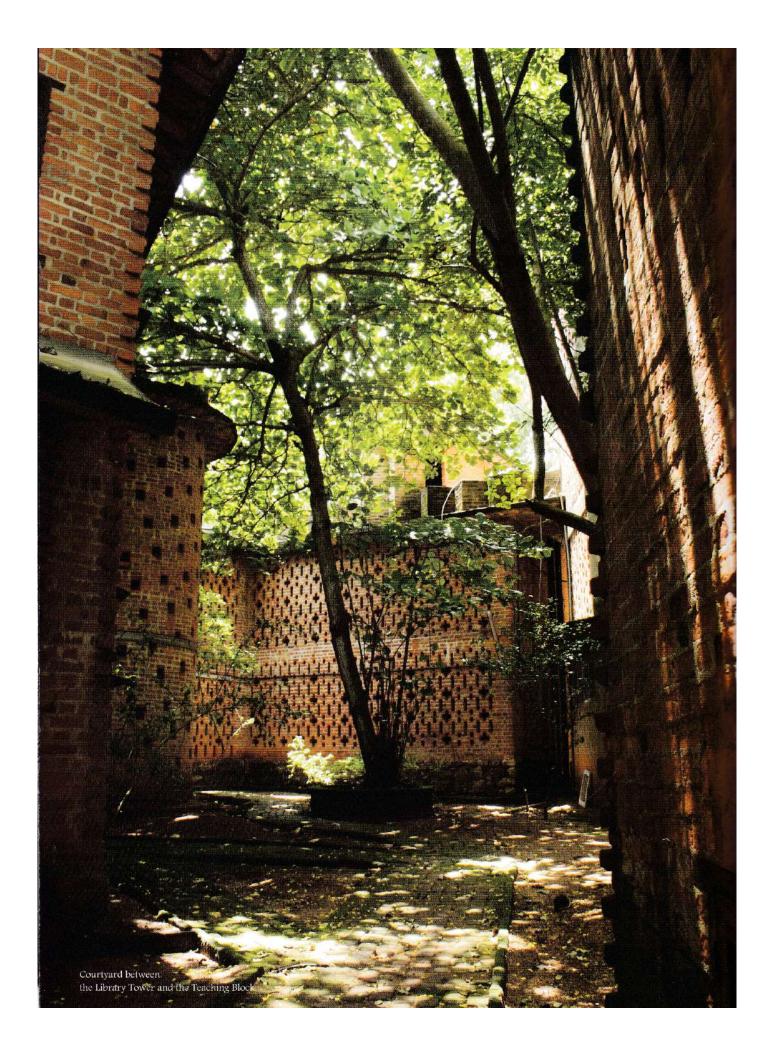






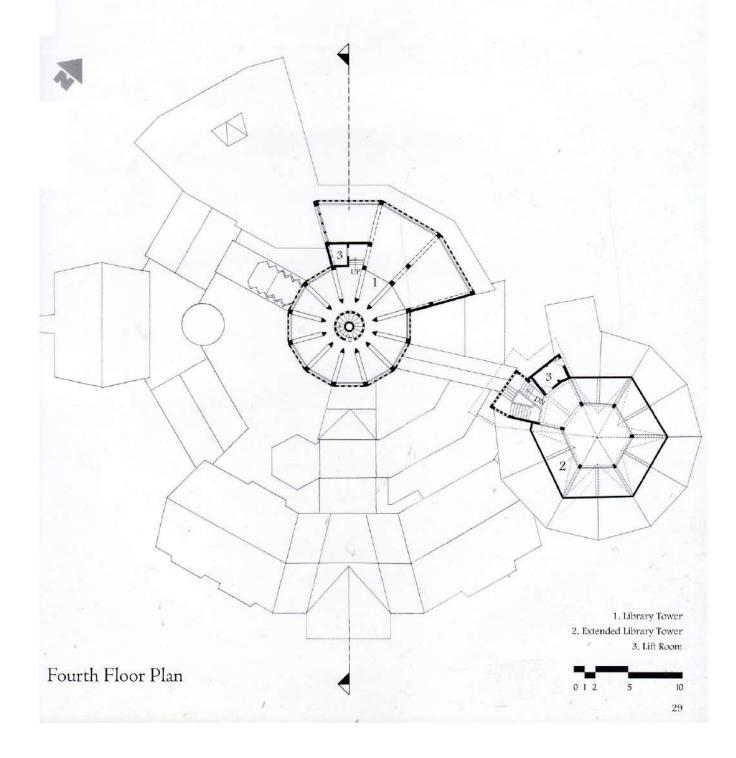
A second library tower was added on the eastern side of the Main Block in 2007. This Extended Library Tower has four storeys and a loft floor. The two towers are connected by a foot bridge on the third floor

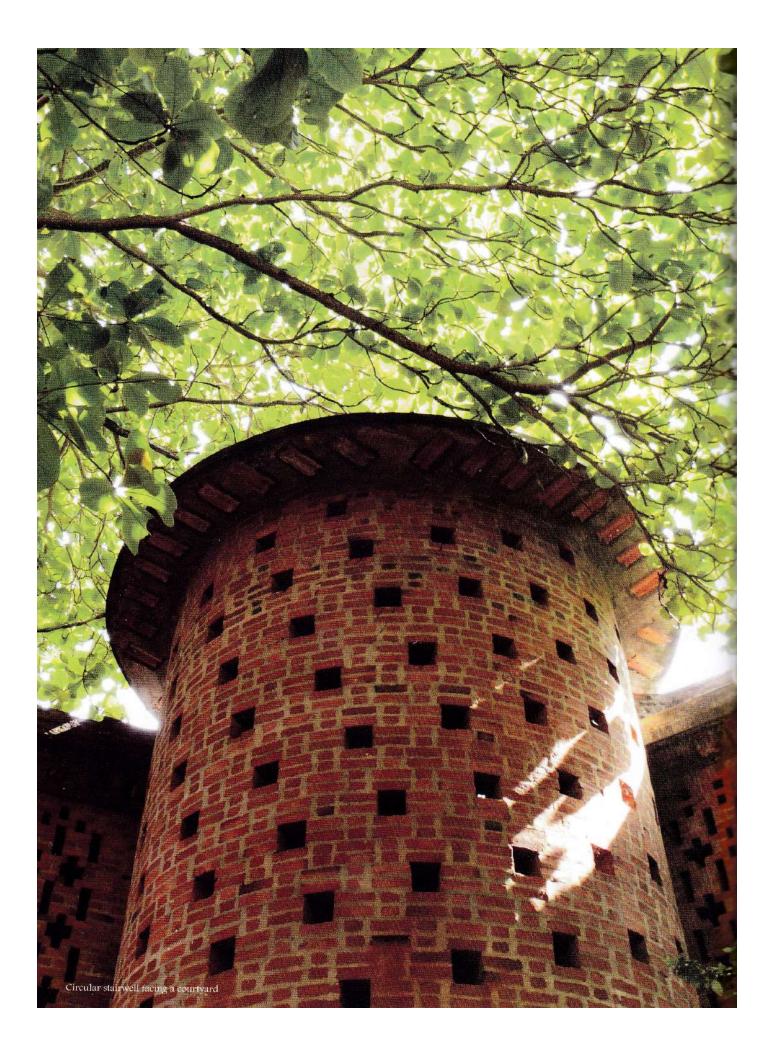






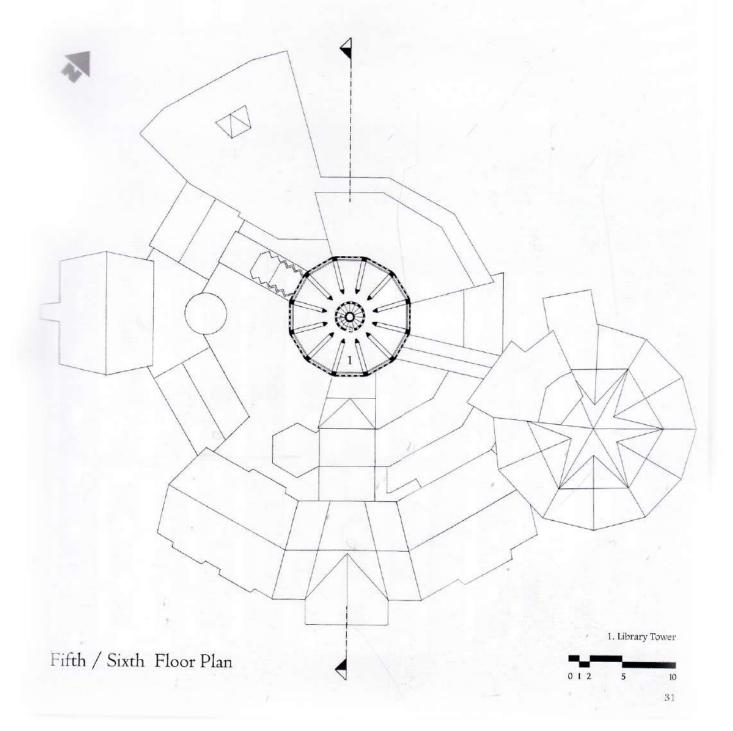
The courtyards formed between the different blocks provide ample light and ventilation within the buildings. The rooms and corridors have windows or jali openings facing these beautiful and shaded courtyards.

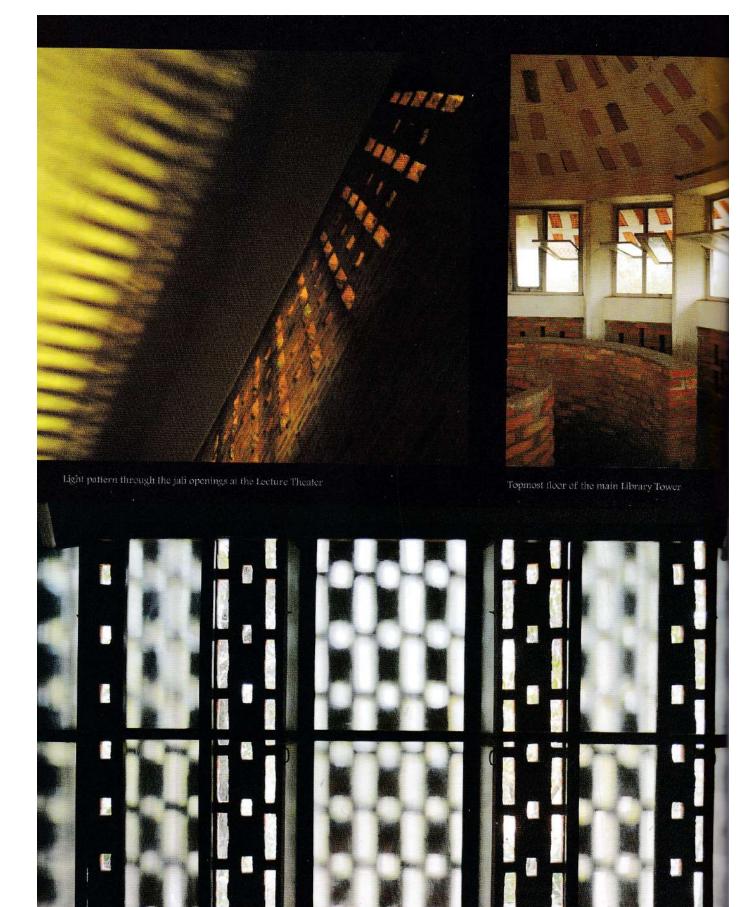






The reinforced concrete slabs use exposed Mangalore tiles as fillers to reduce the amount of concrete. They also provide thermal insulation keeping the interior spaces cooler.

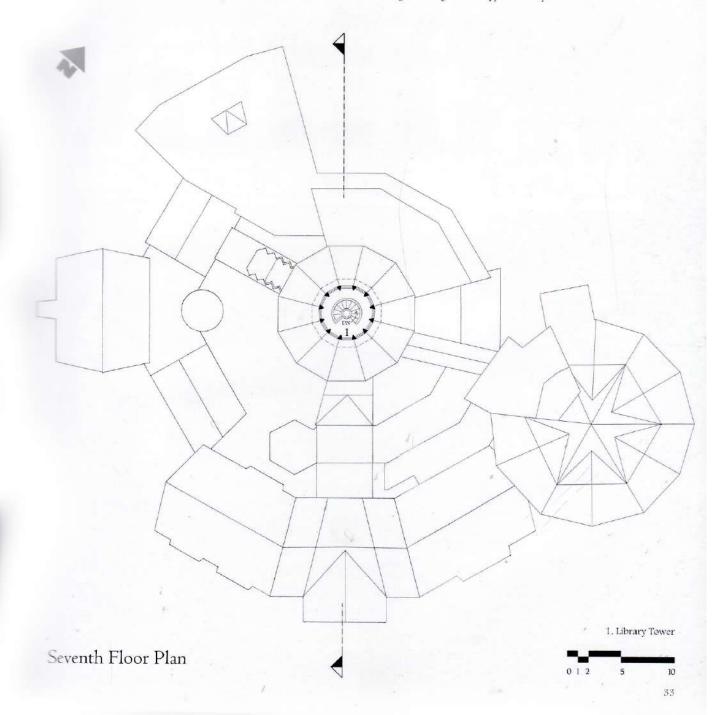


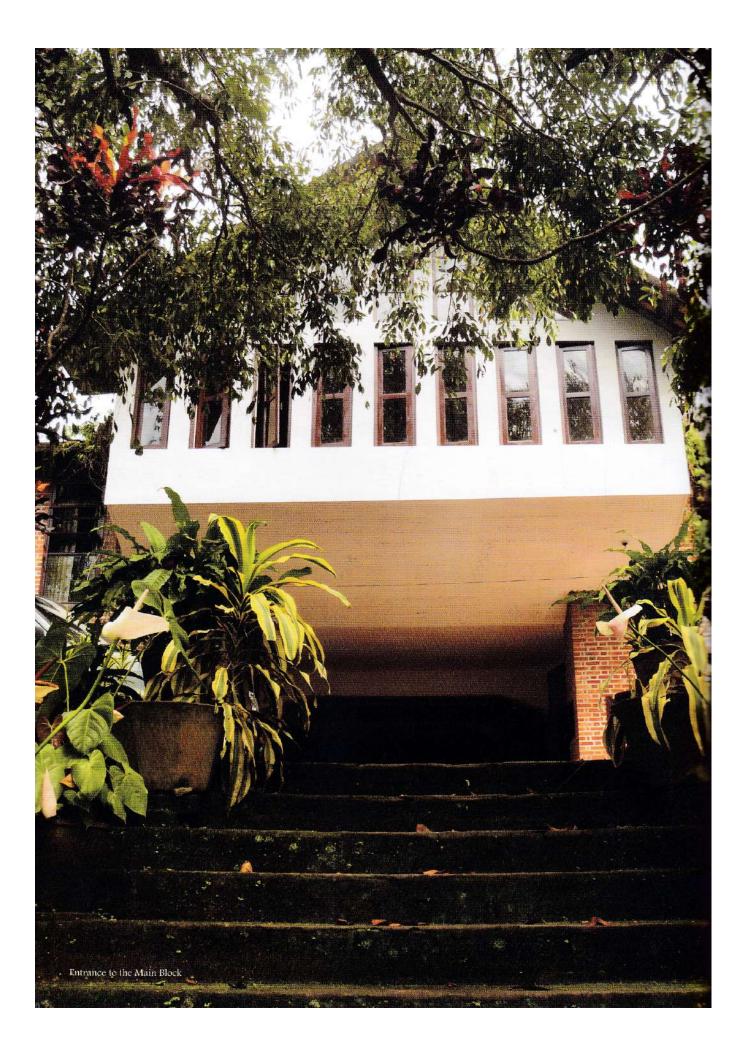




The two Library Towers are lit by jali openings in the outer brick wall with a row of windows in the inner wall.

The topmost (seventh) floor of the main Library Tower being the highest point on the campus, has windows all around, overlooking the vast green canopy of the city.

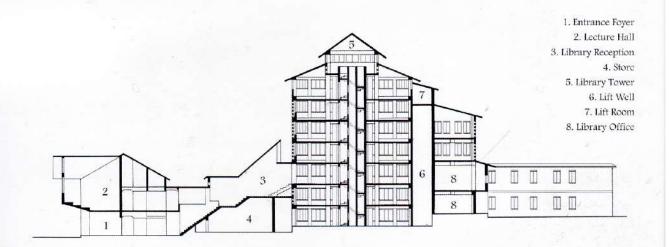




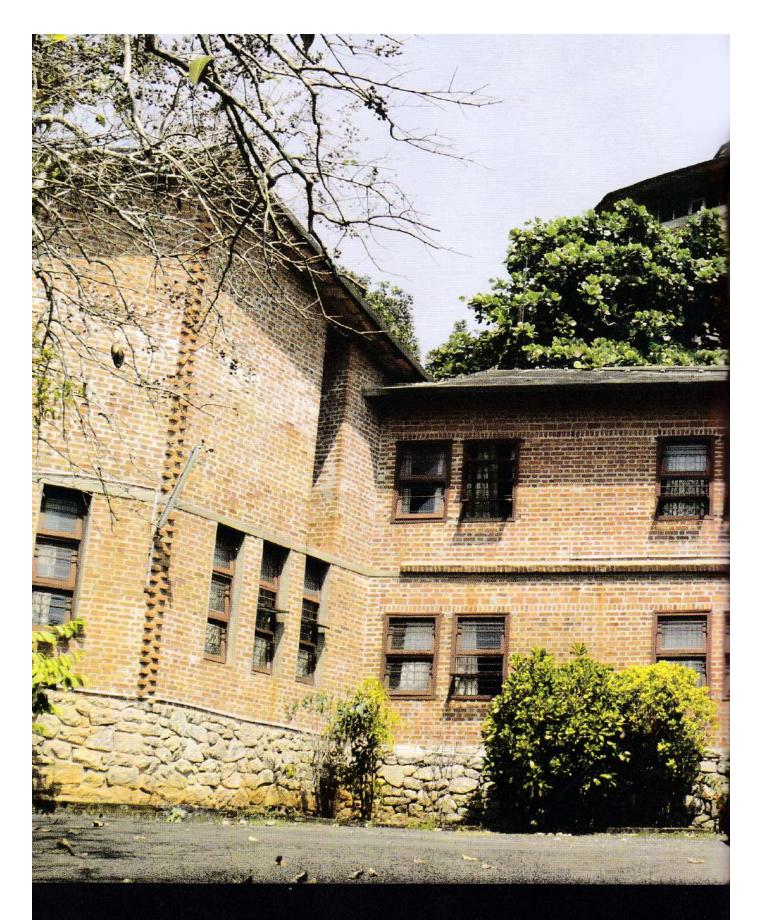




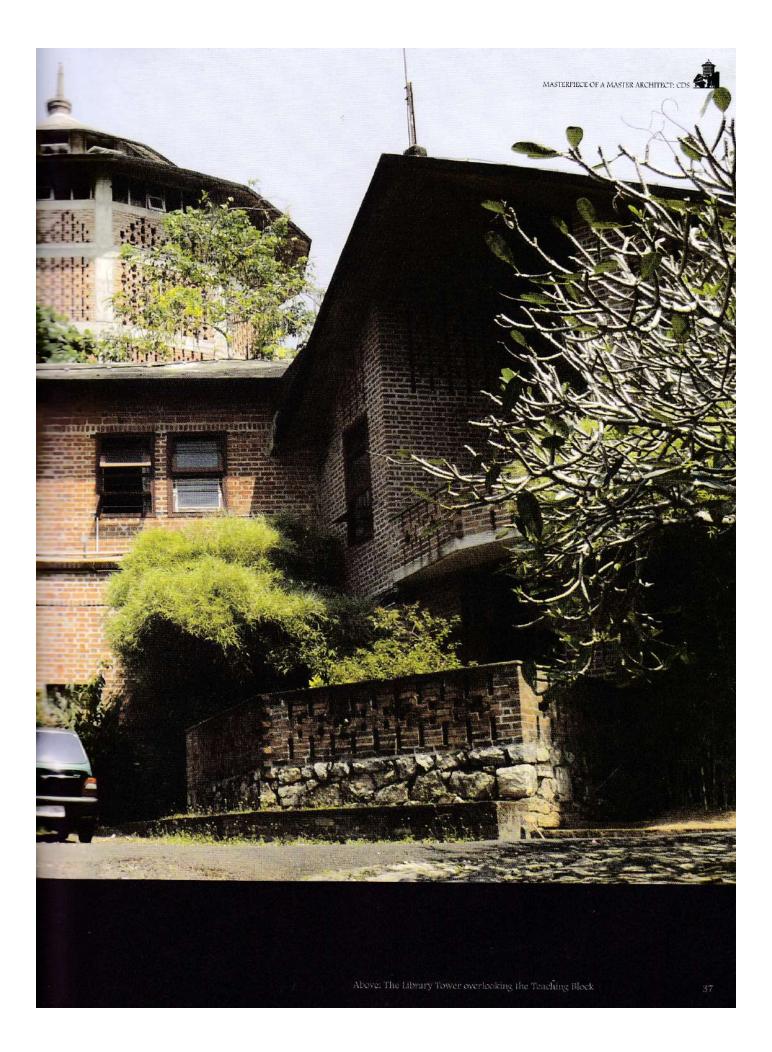
## Elevation

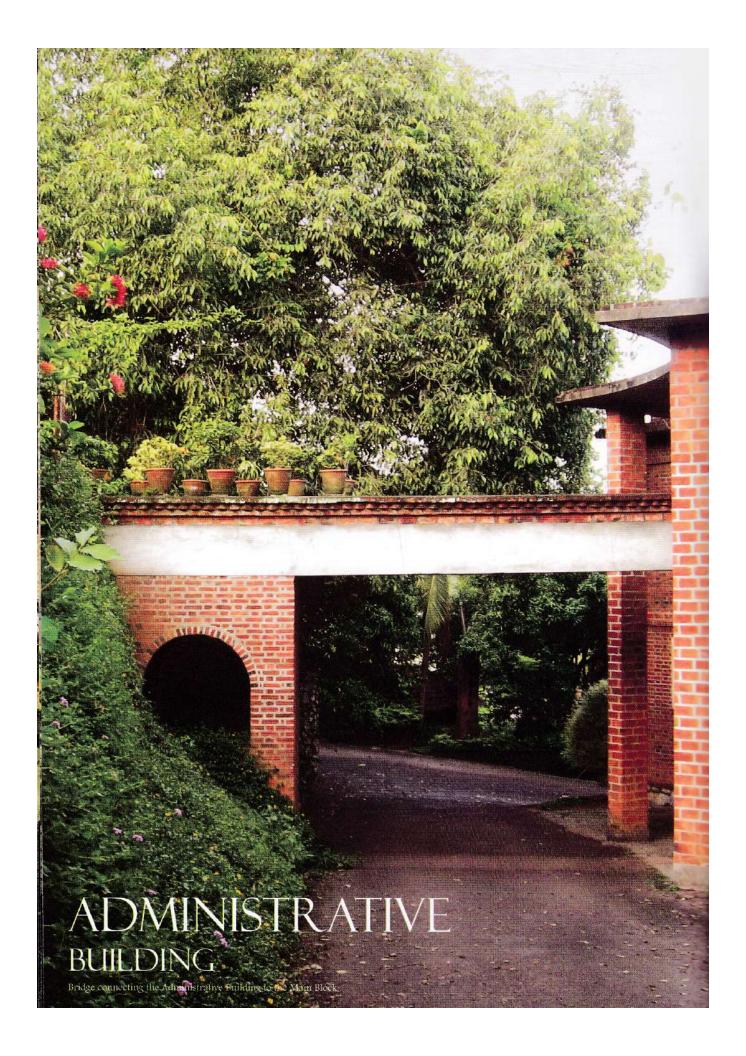


Section

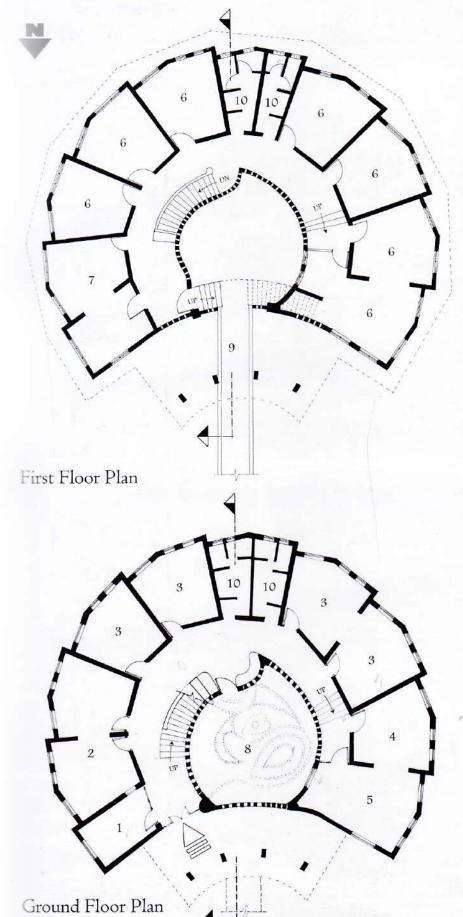


The visual, structural and functional modesty observed in the Main Block is reflected in other buildings and landscape elements on the campus. The Main Block with its central tower and the imposing entrance has become the symbol of CDS and a landmark of the area.











1. Reception / Restroom 2. Campus Maintenance Office 3. PhD / MPhil Classrooms 4. Administrative Officer 5. Academic Program Officer 6. Office Room 7. Registrar's Office 8. Courtyard 9. Bridge towards the Library 10. Toilets







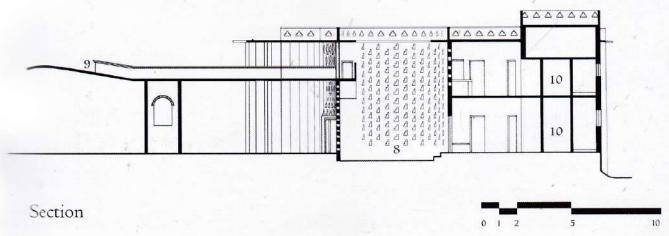
Towards the south of main block is located the administrative building. Its a double storeyed structure with a 4m high bridge connecting its first floor to the entrance of the main block.

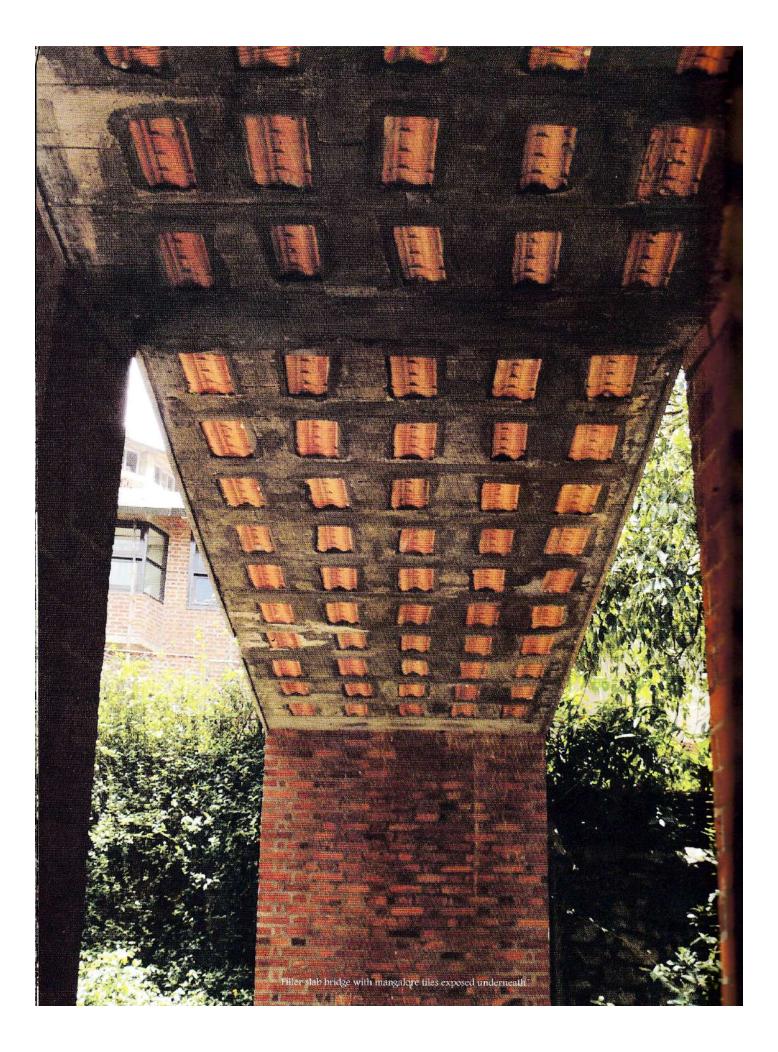
The staggered wall construction not only avoids the use of concrete columns to support its span, but also adds to perfectly usable interiors. The corridors on both floors are lighted by a single winding jali wall forming a mango shaped courtyard at the centre.

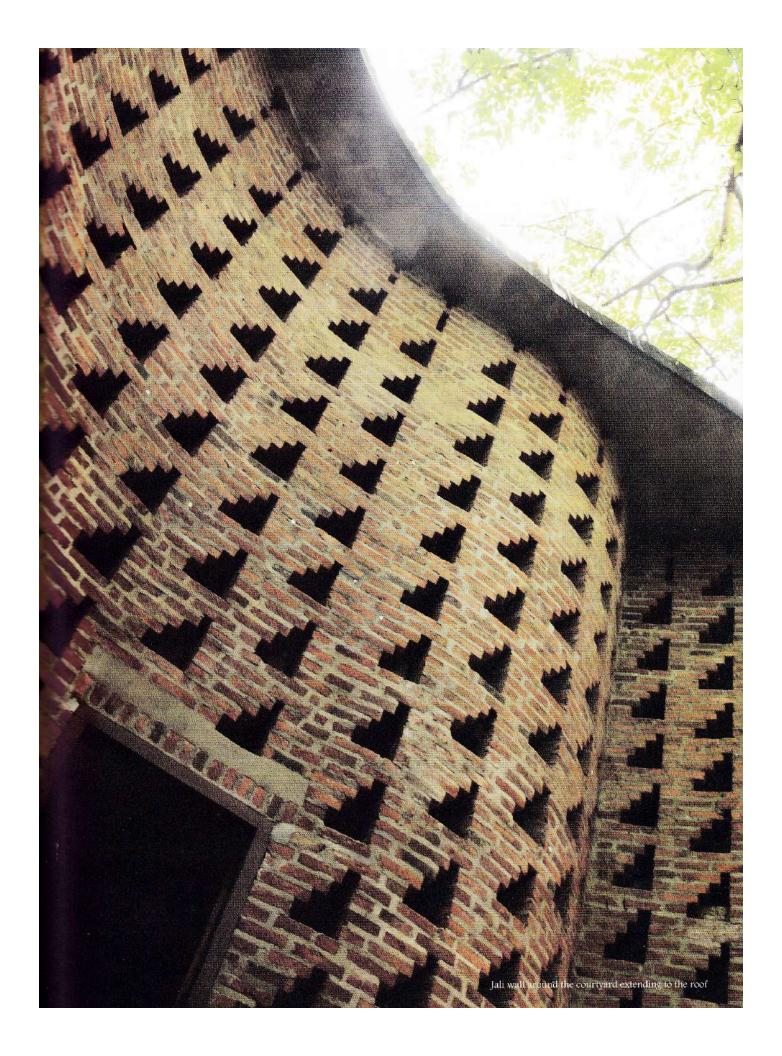


## Elevation

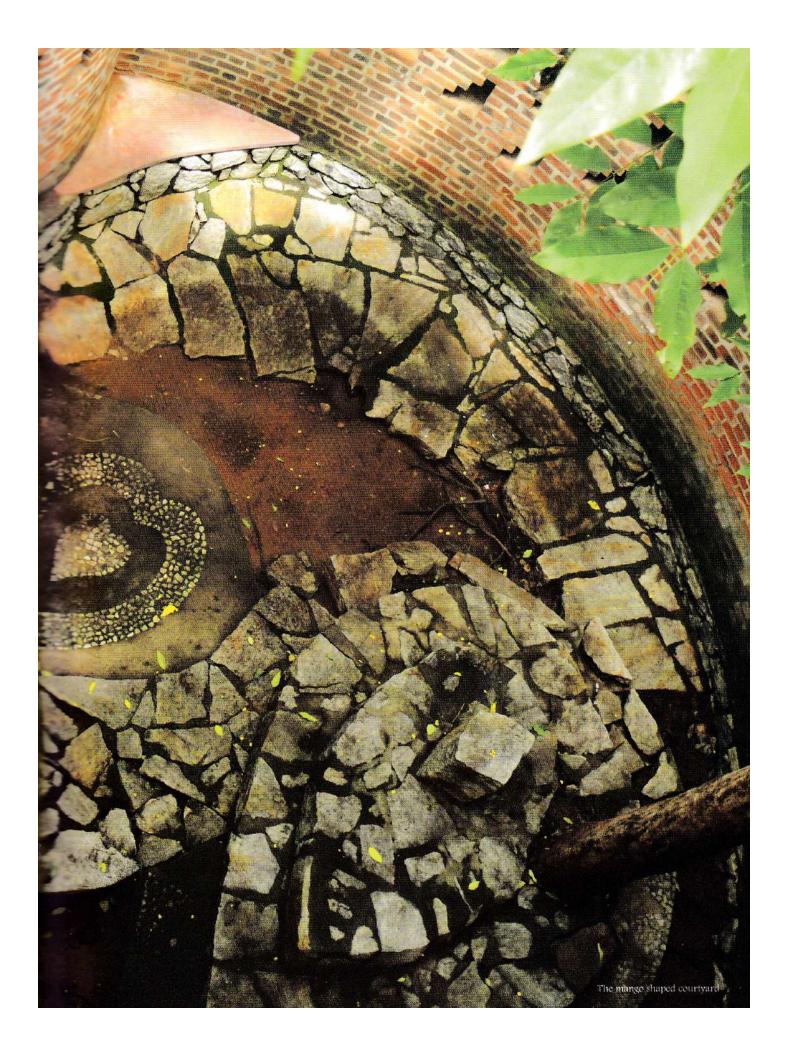
9. Bridge towards the Library8. Courtyard10. Toilets

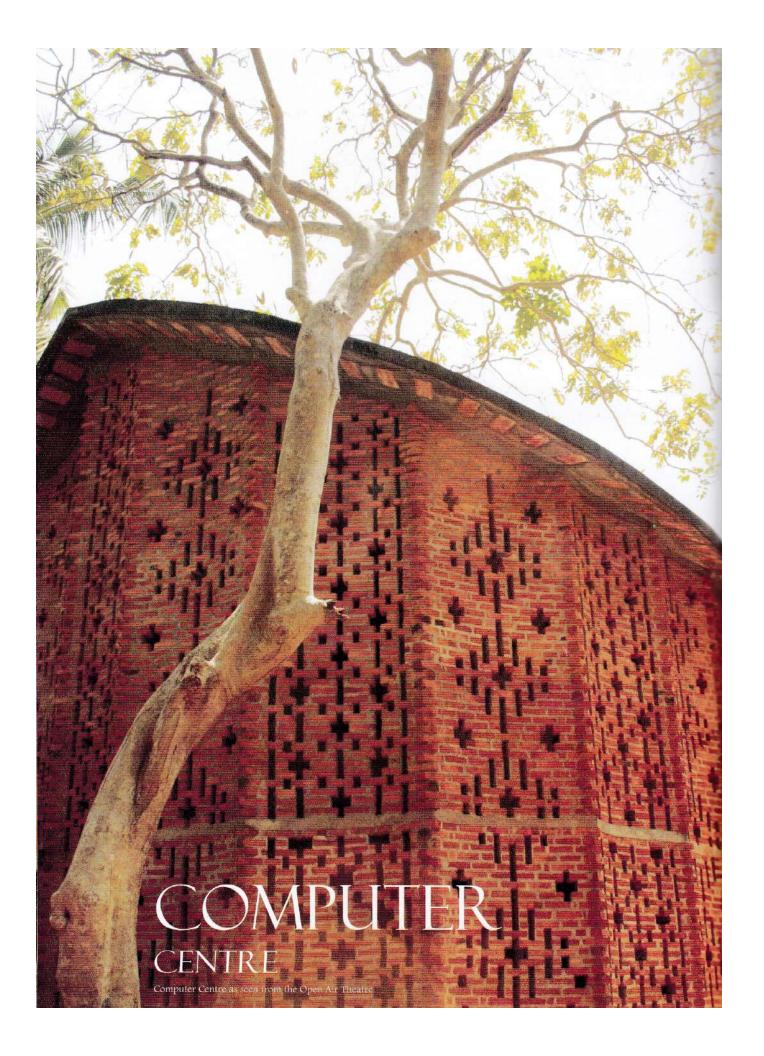








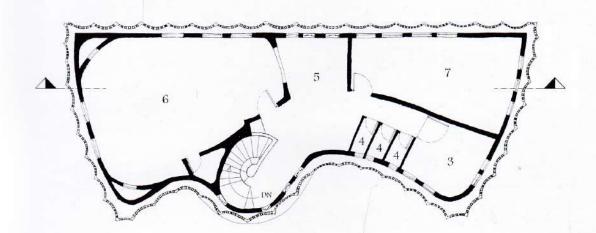




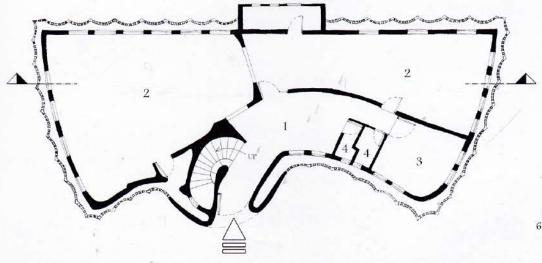






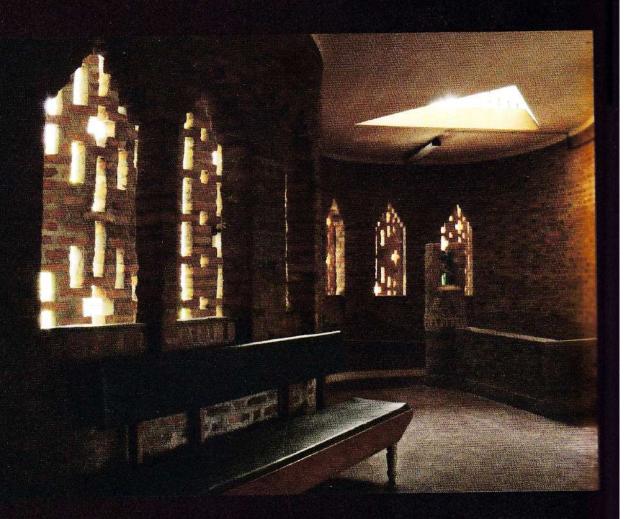


First floor plan



1. Entrance
2. Computer Lab
3. Office
4. Toilet
5. Gathering Space
6. Conference Room
7. Meeting Room

Ground floor plan



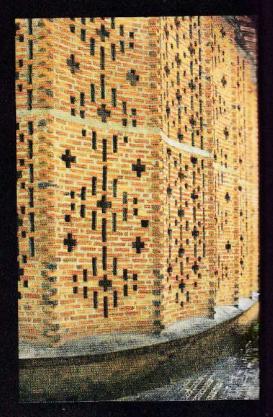
The Computer Centre on the south west of the Main Block is an extremely perforated building as seen from outside.

The outer wall with intricate jali work is half brick thick that winds around in repeating curves. It prevents direct sunlight from entering into the building.

The secondary wall which is load bearing is about half a meter inner to the outer one and has larger openings and windows for respective spaces.

The curvature of walls and the folded plate roof render additional stability to the structure.

This unique double wall construction helps in the natural circulation of breeze around the building keeping the interior cool and thus avoiding the use of artificial air-conditioning.



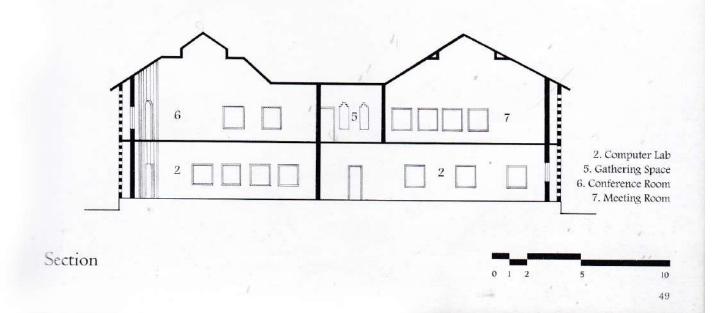
Above: The lounge and the stair well (first floor of the Computer Centre) Right: Curved external walls of the Computer Centre

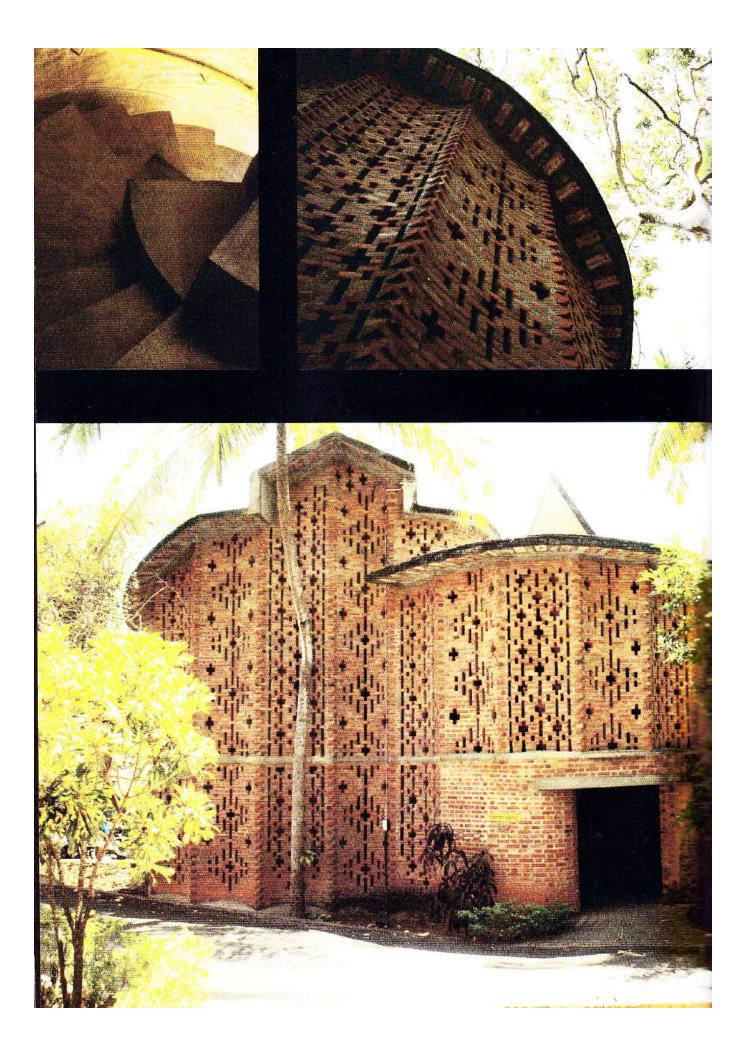


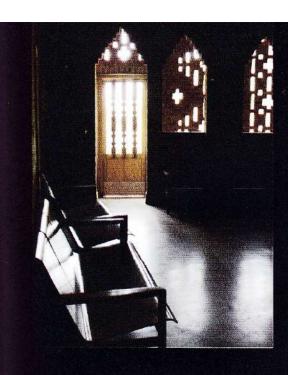




Elevation





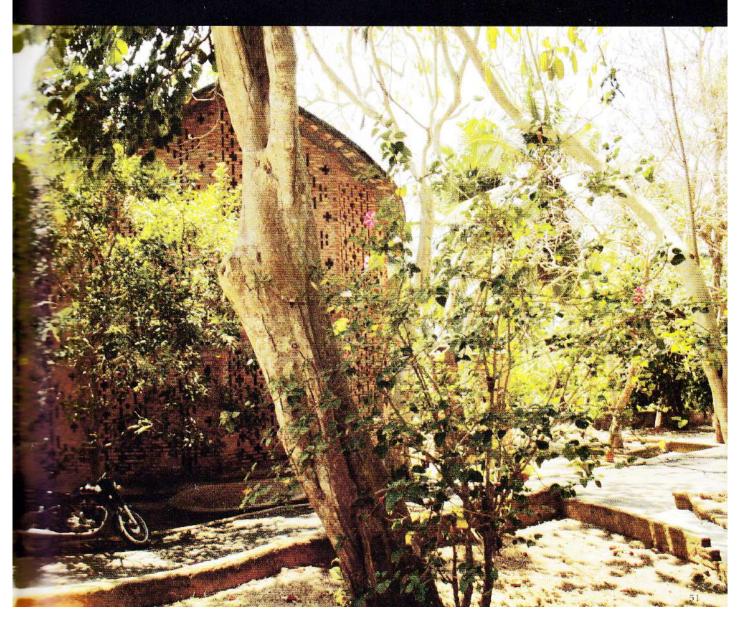


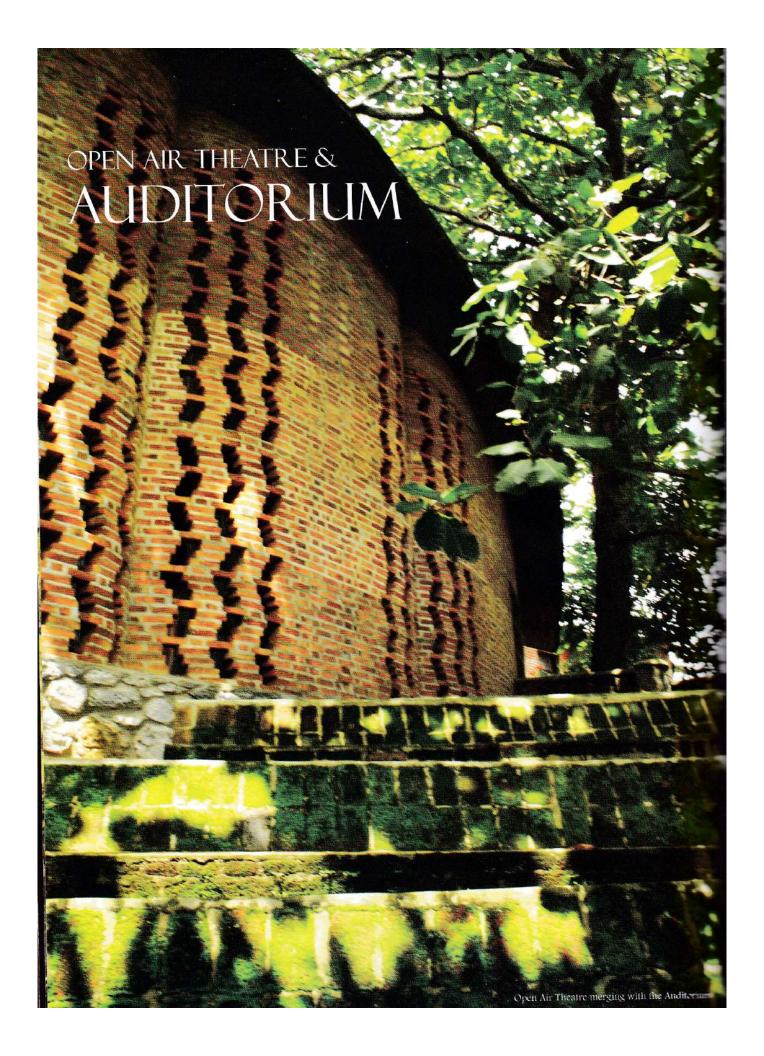
In certain buildings, especially the Computer Centre and the administrative building, it is clearly visible how Baker imagined the jali patterns in a building as a whole.

He designed these jali walls which often start from one floor and continue to upper floors unifying the building with a common visual

Left: Gathering space Below: Computer Centre as seen from the pathway between the Auditorium and the Main Block

Opposite: Above Left: Spiral stair ease winding down to the ground floor Above right: Jali wall profile curving around the trees Below: Computer Centre

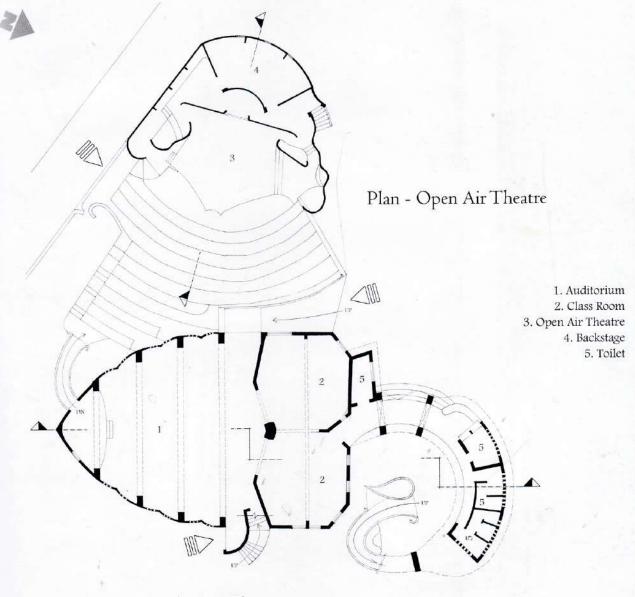




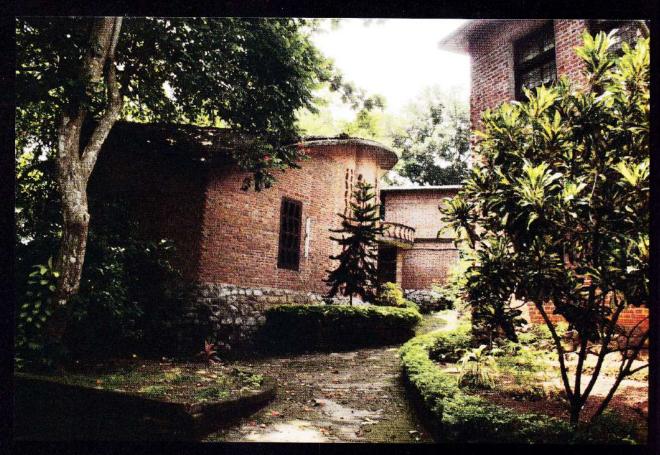


Opposite to the Computer Centre is the Auditorium having a seating capacity of about 300.

Beside the Auditorium on its west is the Open Air Theatre (O.A.T.) that flows with the contours of the



Plan - Auditorium

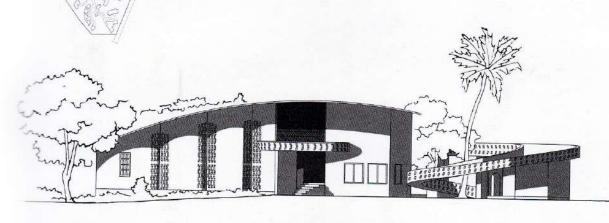


Auditorium as seen from the Computer Centre

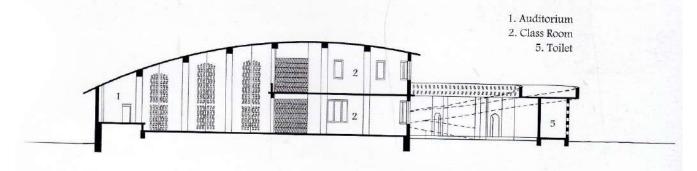


Auditorium as seen from the O.A.T. Stage

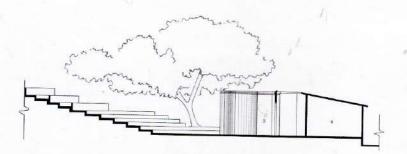




Elevation



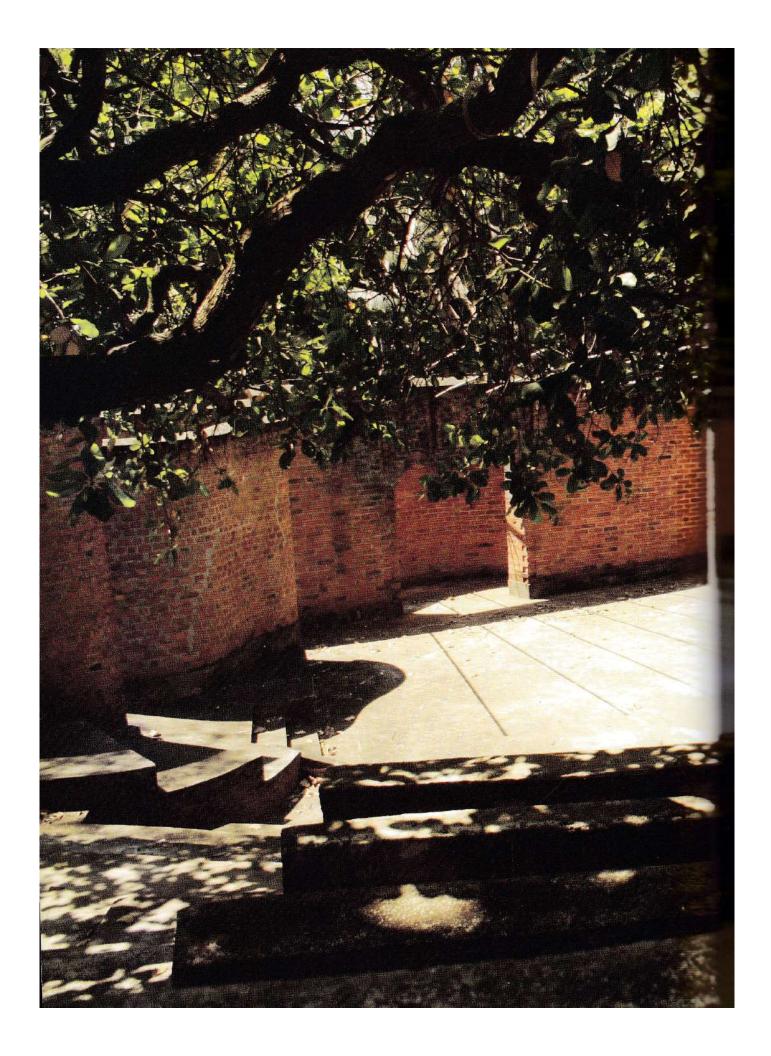
Section

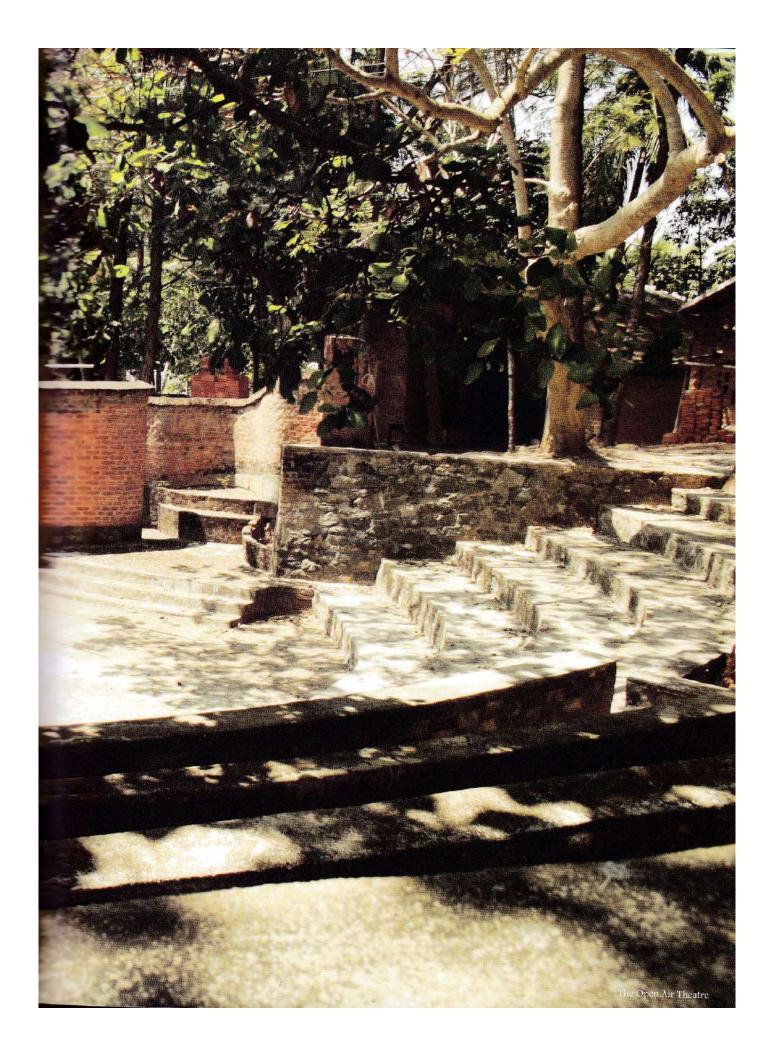


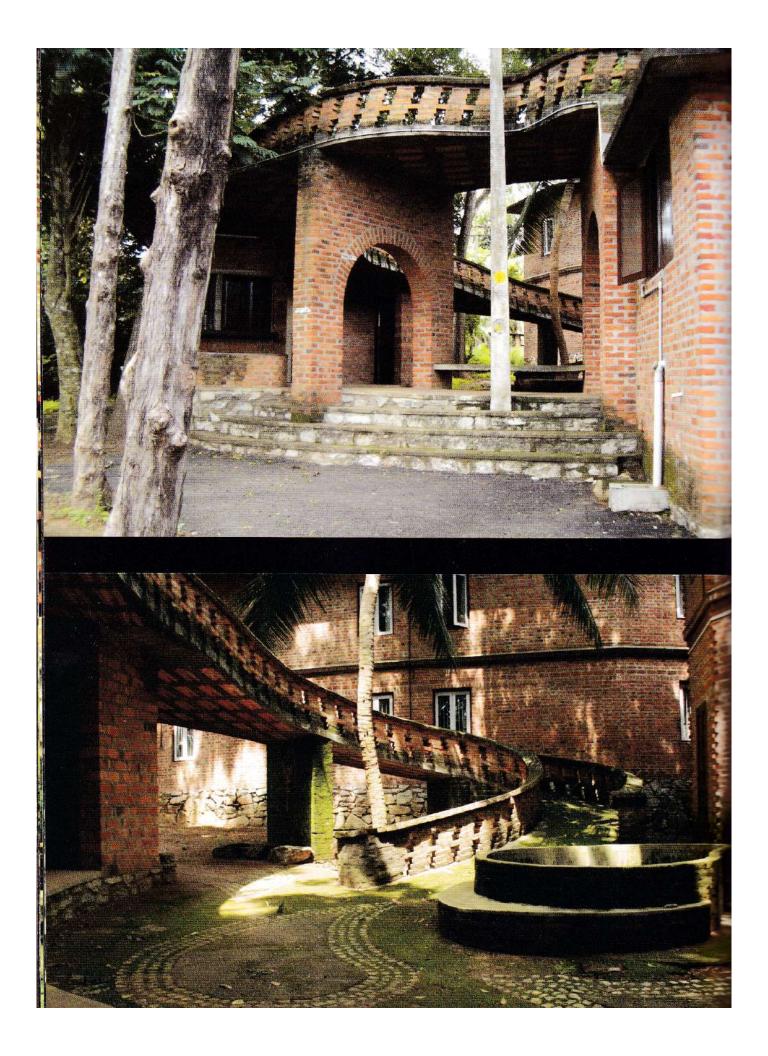
O.A.T. Section











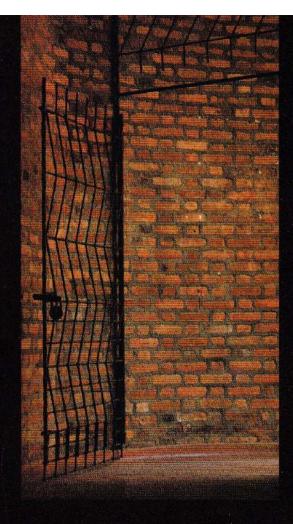
In the Auditorium the large roof span is supported by a combination of brick columns and curved walls. Unlike the Computer Centre the half brick thick walls curve with its concave side facing inwards. The beautiful jali patterns of these walls give the Auditorium a unique visual charm.

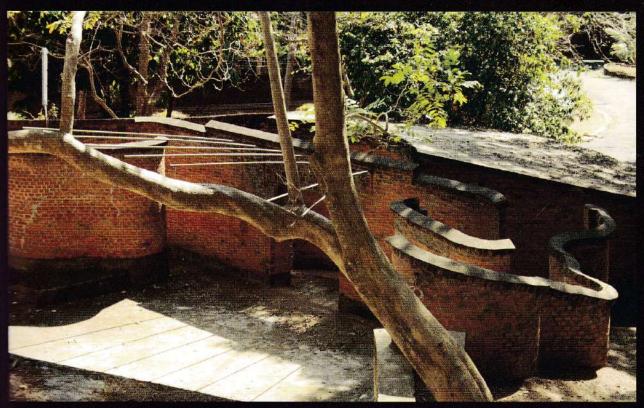
The Open Air Theatre appears to be a part of the sloping site with seating space on the upper level. Its lower side has a series of curved walls that give shape to the backstage with various entrances and exits for performers.

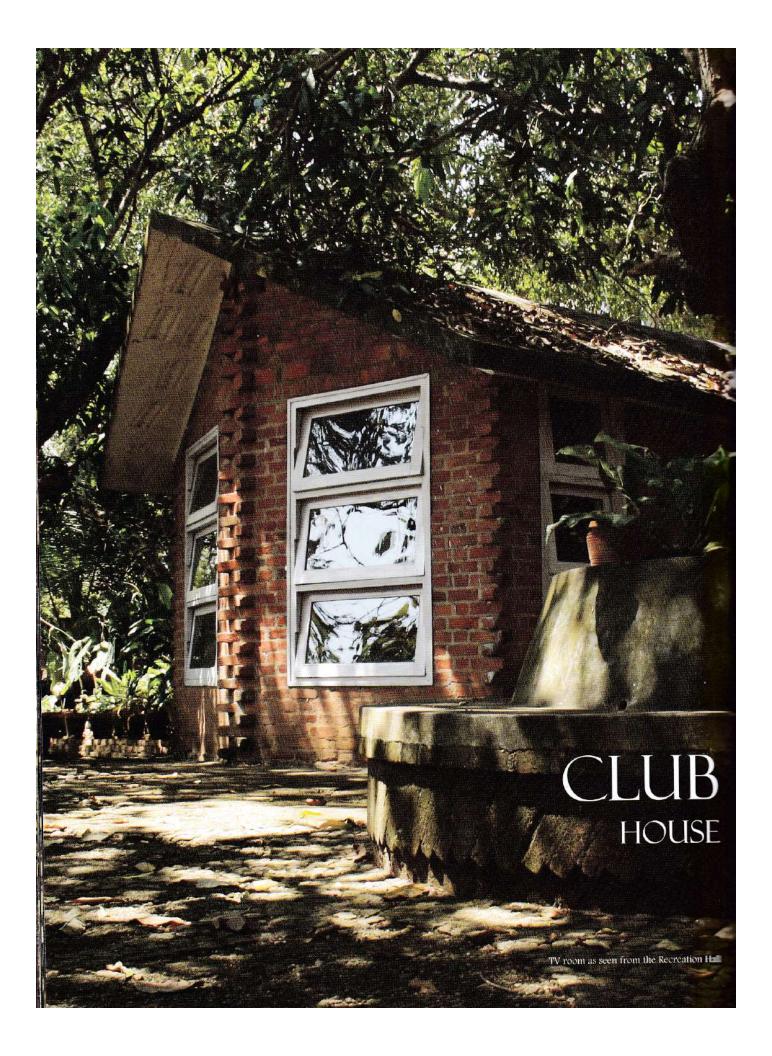
Though the Open Air Theatre and the Auditorium were constructed at different times, they merge into one another complimenting each other visually and functionally.

Right: Entrance of the Auditorium below: Curved walls creatively forming the O.A.T. Backstage

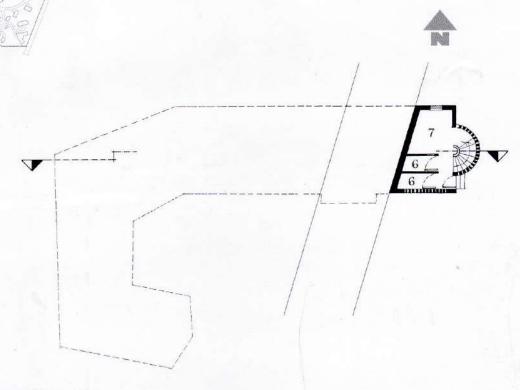
Opposite:
Above: Resting space behind the Auditorium
Below: Rann curving around a tree



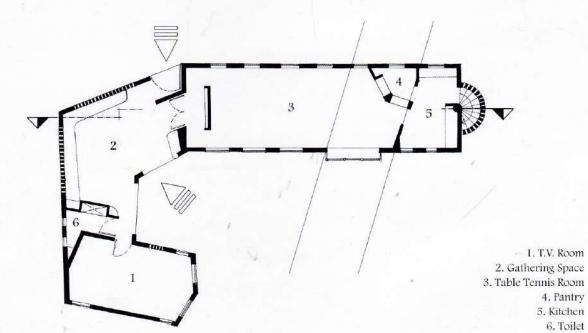








## Basement Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

10 61

6. Toilet 7. Store



The first building to be noticed as one enters into the campus is the Club House as it forms a bridge over the road.

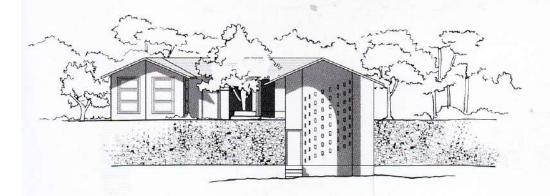
It is elevated from the ground to avoid unnecessary level differences inside the building as well as to provide a continuous unhindered path below it leading to the Research Centre.

Above: view from the gathering space Below: Club House as seen from the watchman's Reside:

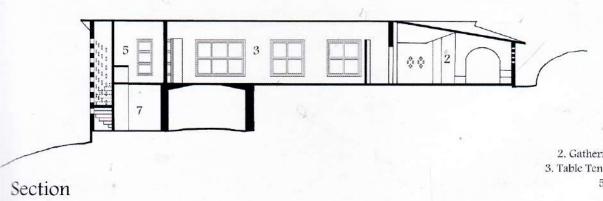








## Elevation

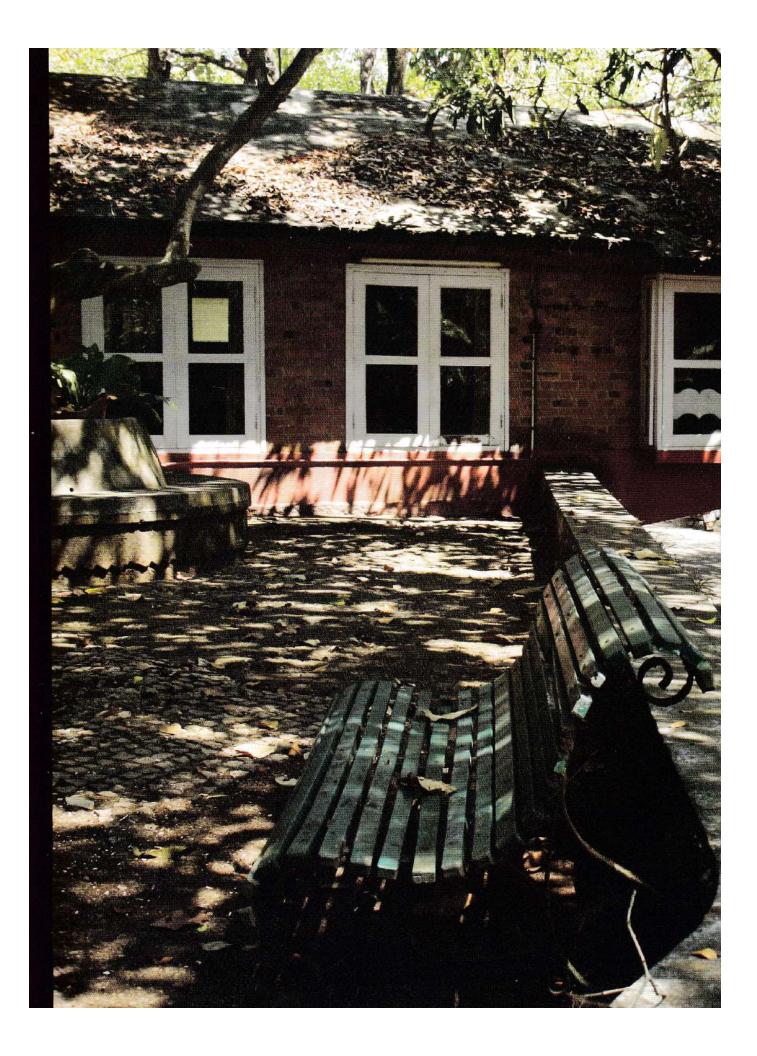


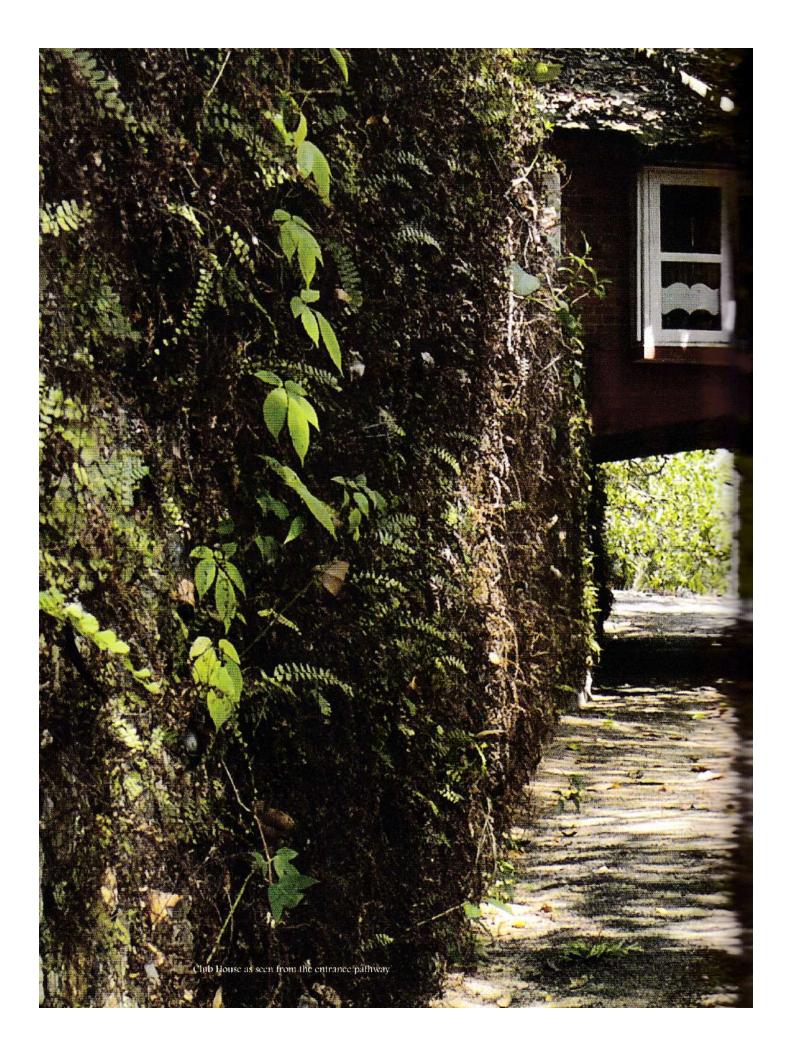
2. Gathering Space 3. Table Tennis Room 5. Kitchen 7. Store

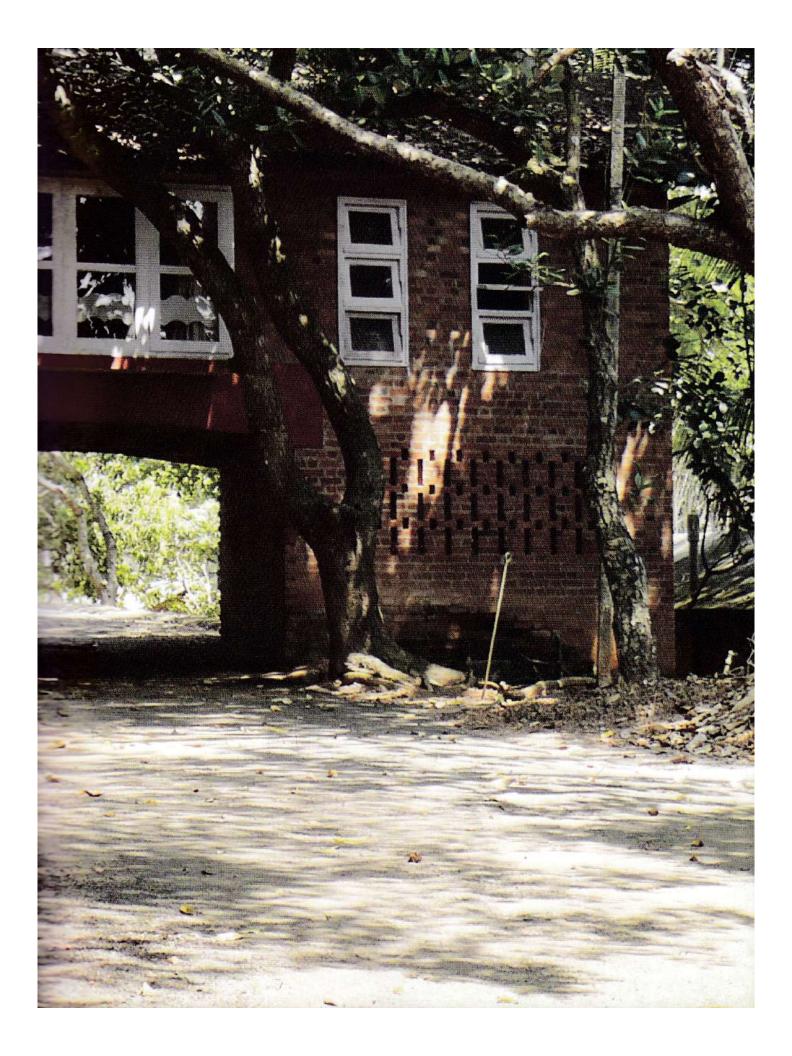


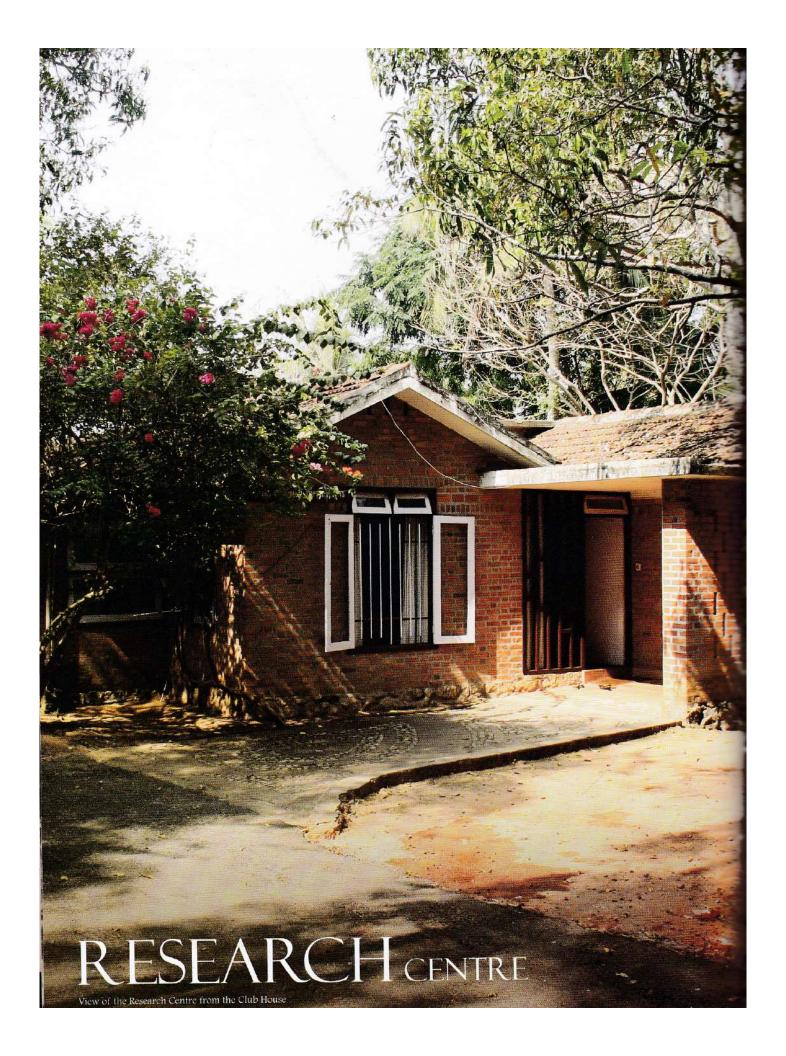
Above & Below: Views of the gathering space Opposite: Relaxing space beside the Club House



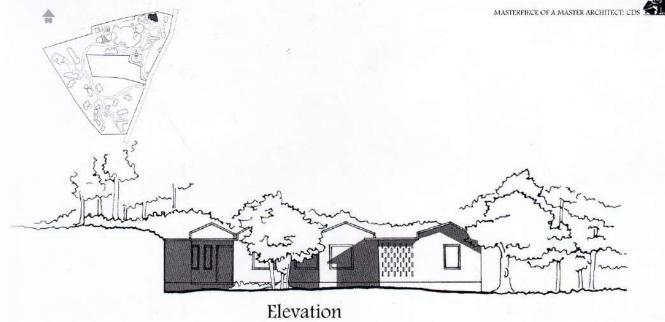


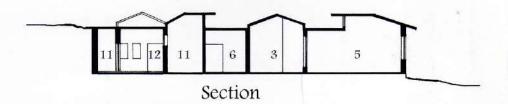


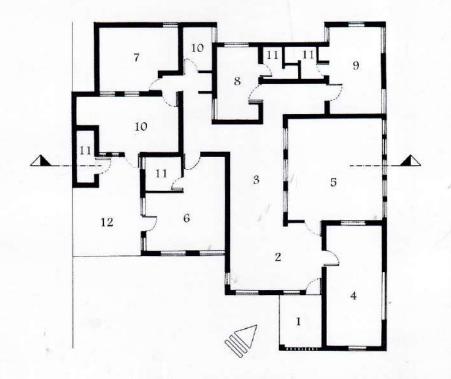










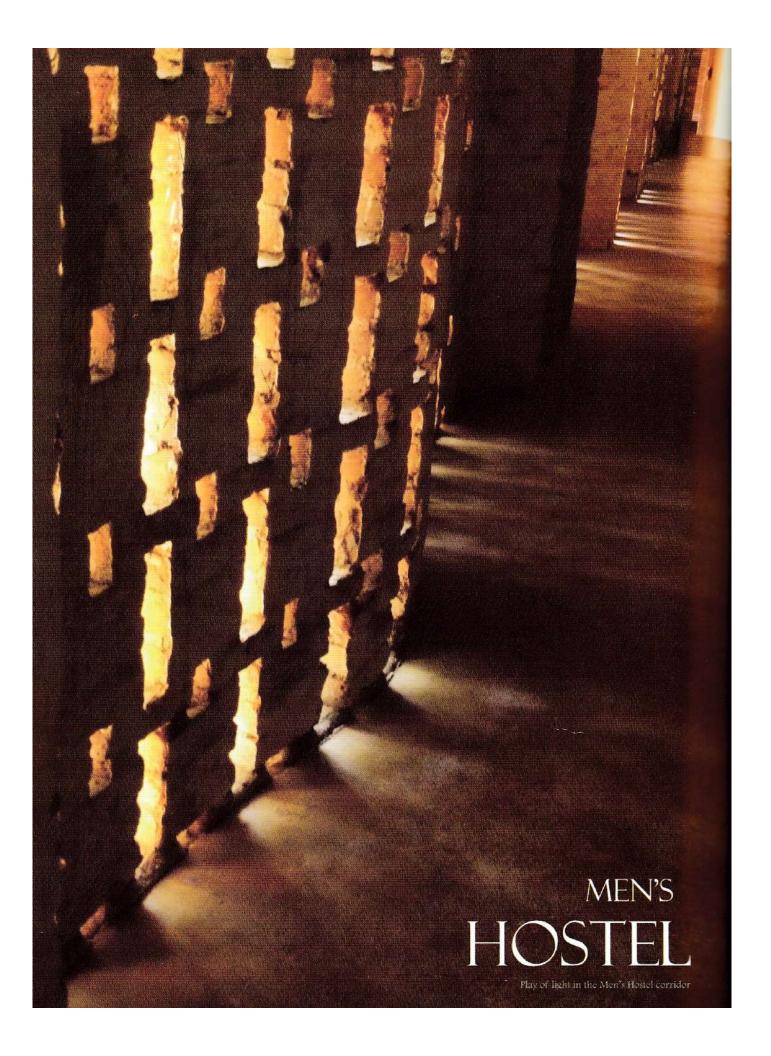




1. Foyer 2. Visitors Lounge 3. Secretary 4. Visiting Fellow 5. Research Assistant 6. Prog. Co-orninator 7. Computer Room 8. Asst. Prog. Co-orninator 9. Program. Advisor 10. Kitchen 11. Toilet

Ground Floor Plan



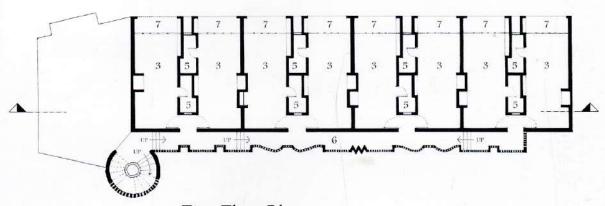




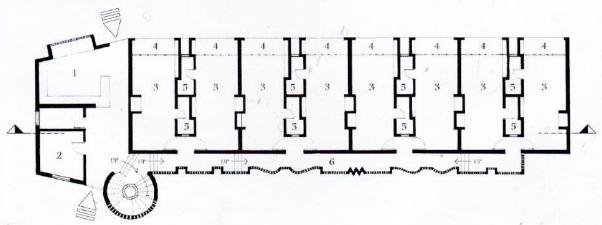
## Men's Hostel -I



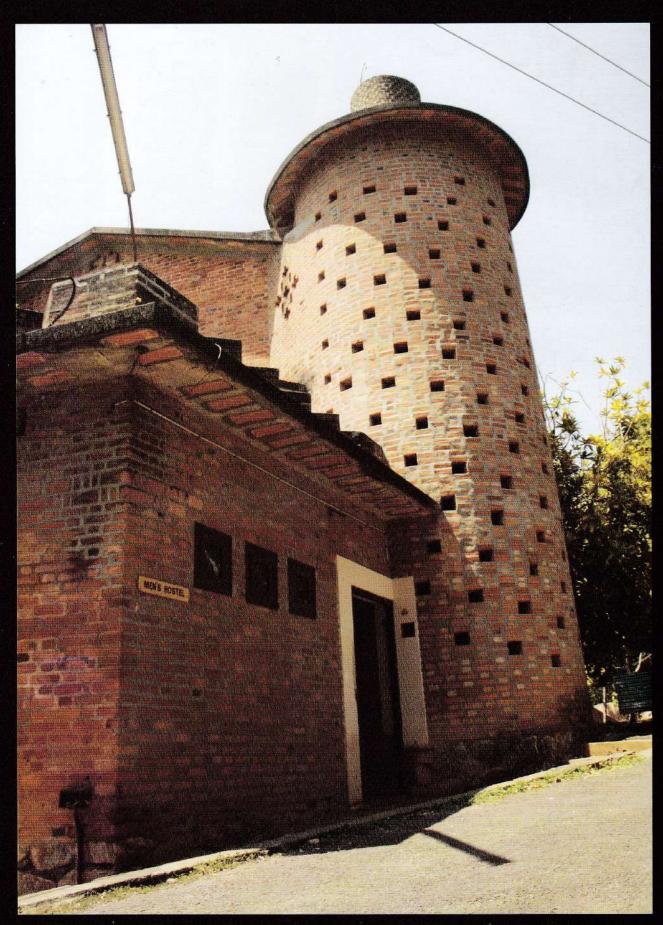
- 1. Gathering Space
- 2. Store
- 3. Room
- 4. Sit-out
- 5. Toilet
- 6. Corridor
- 7. Balcony



First Floor Plan



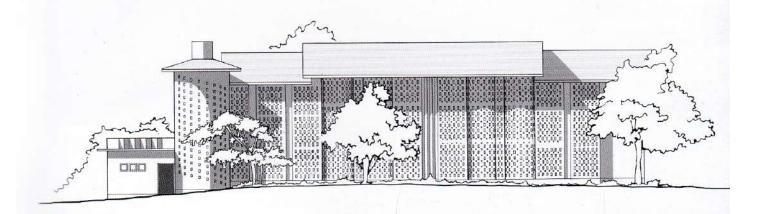
Ground Floor Plan



Men's Hostel entrance and stairwe

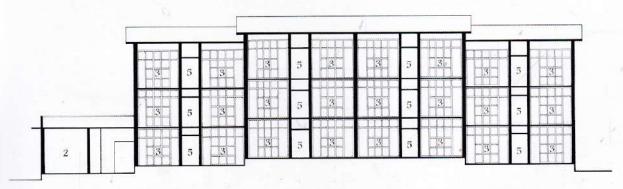


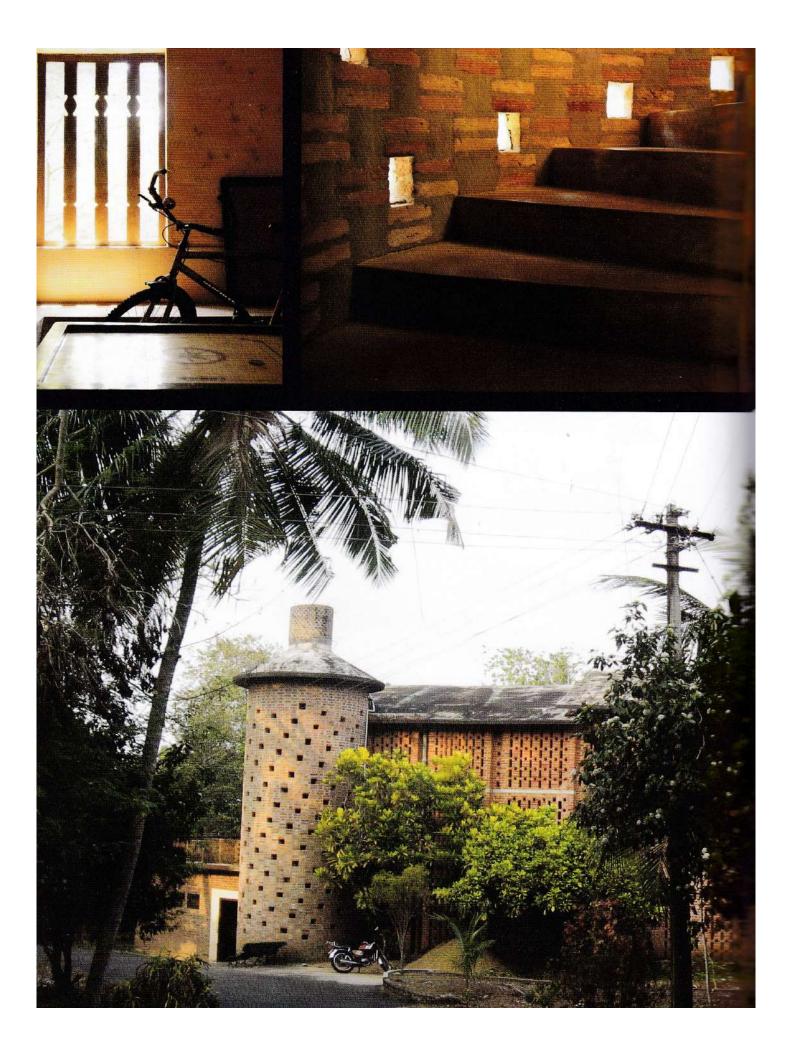
# Men's Hostel -I

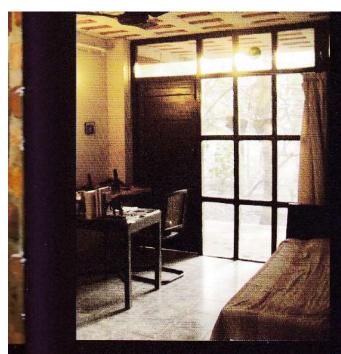


### Elevation

- 2. Store
- 3. Room
- 5. Toilet







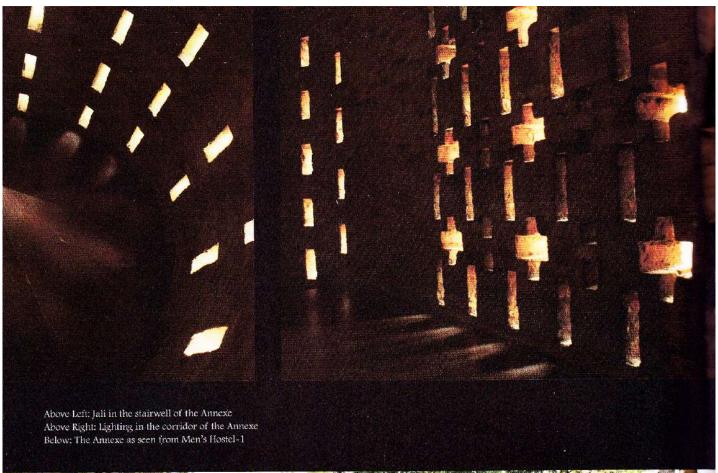
Towards the west of the campus are situated the Hostels, Canteen and the Guest House. The Men's Hostel is a three storeyed structure with a half brick thick staggered wall running along the corridor. Every room has a study space and a balcony facing the greenery outside.

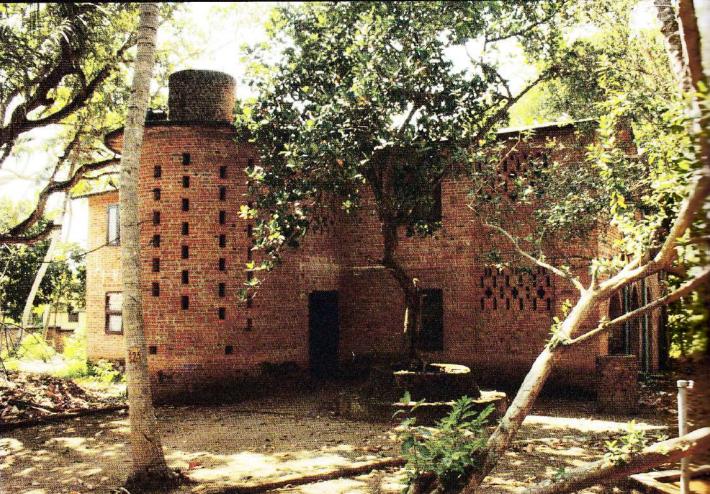
The Men's Hostel-Annexe, is beside it on the west.

Opposite; Top Left: Recreation space Top Right: Jali pattern in the stairwell

Left: Hostel room in the evening Below: Men's Hostel-1 as seen from the O.A.T.

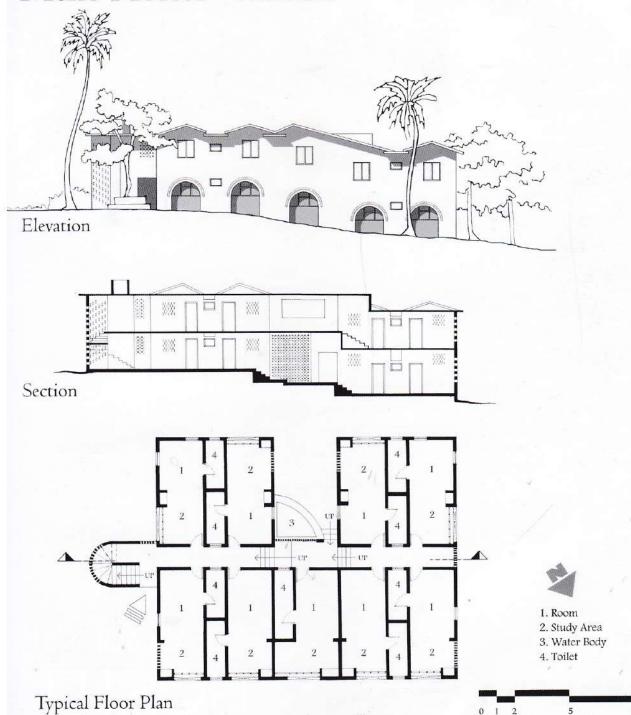


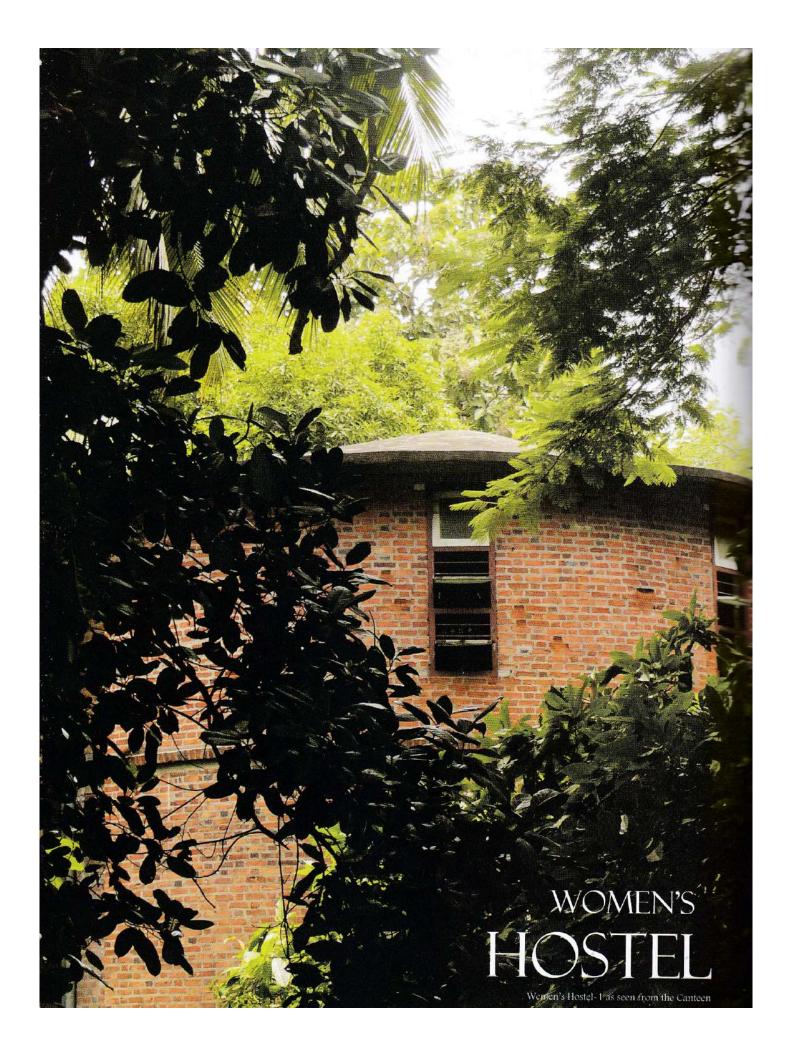






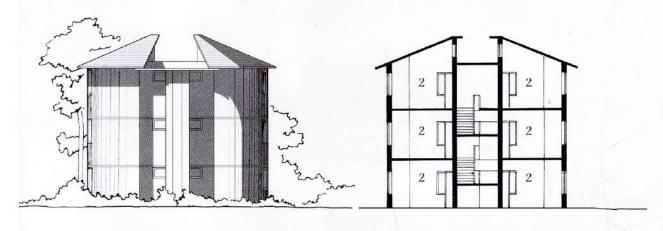
## Men's Hostel - Annexe





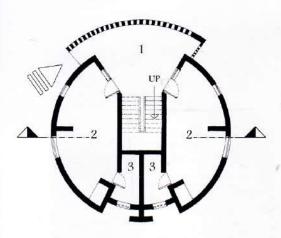


## Women's Hostel -I

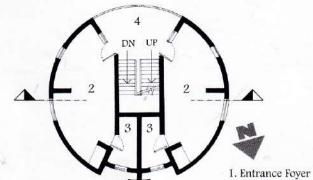


Section

Elevation



Ground Floor Plan

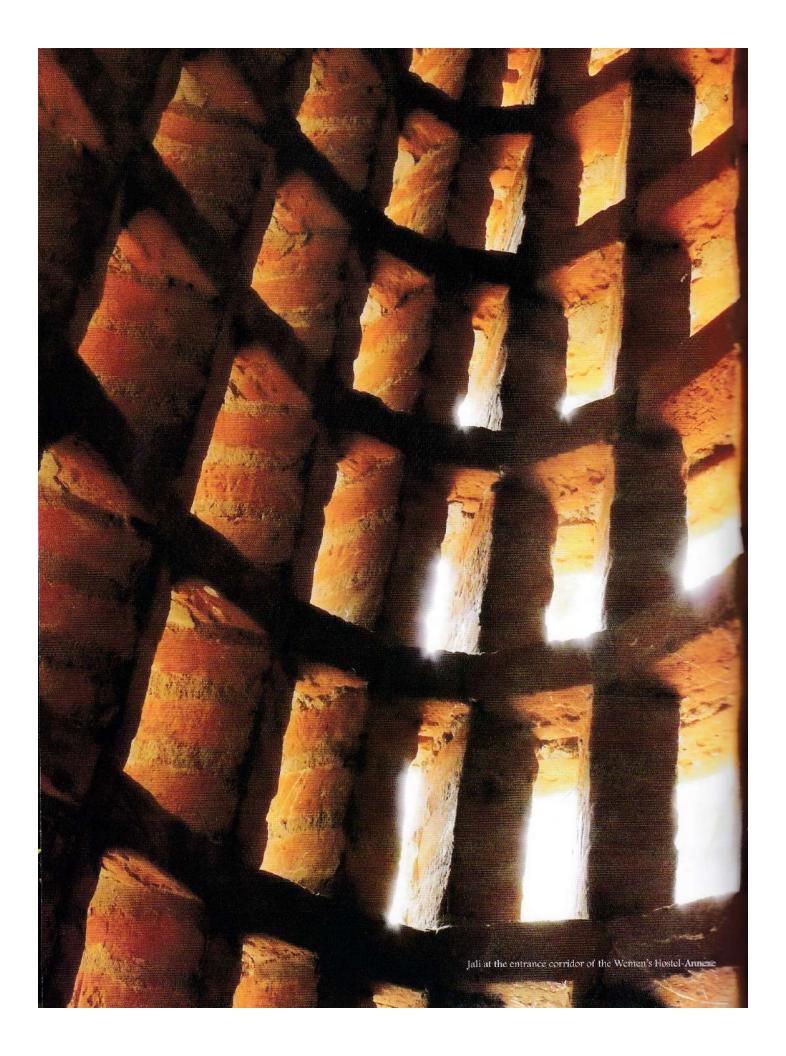


First Floor Plan

2. Room

3. Toilet

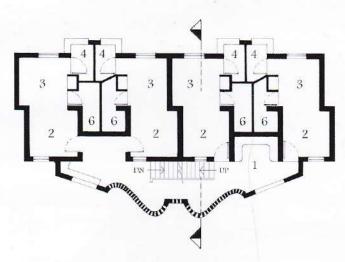
4. Common Balcony



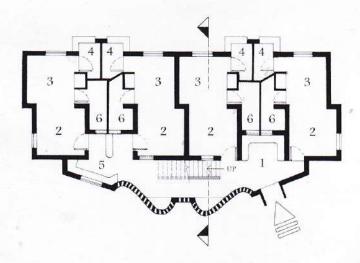


### Women's Hostel - Annexe



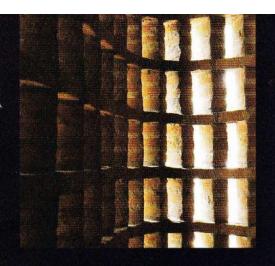


First Floor Plan



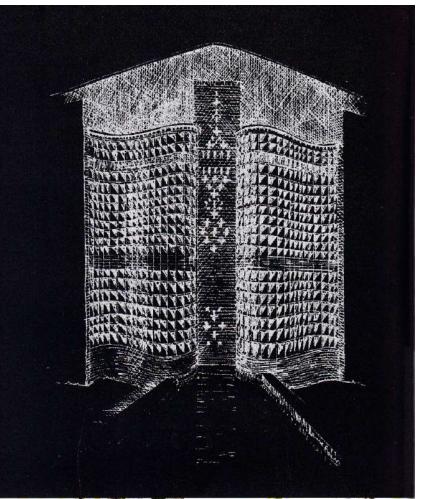
Ground Floor Plan

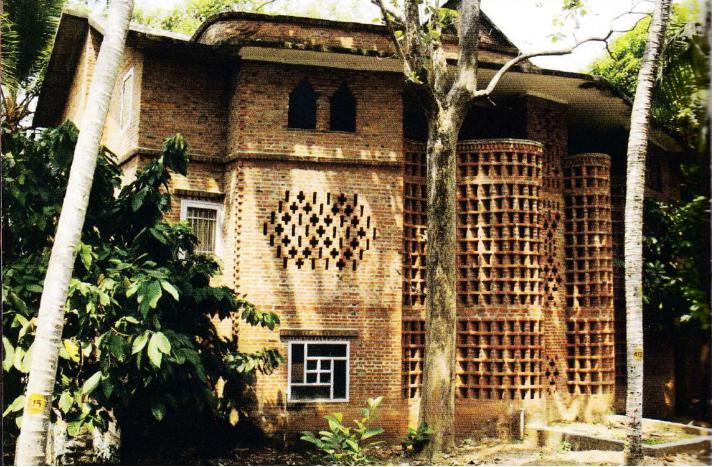
- 1. Sit-out
- 2. Room
- 3. Study
- 4. Balcony
- 5. Pantry
- 6. Toilet



The first Women's Hostel was constructed as a three storied cylindrical building with two rooms each on every floor. Later the annexe building was built with experimental jali wall construction in the front facade. This jali work creates an extraordinary lighting pattern in the common spaces.

Above: Creative light pattern through the jali Right: Baker's sketch of the jali work Below: Women's Hostel-Annexe as seen from the J badminton court

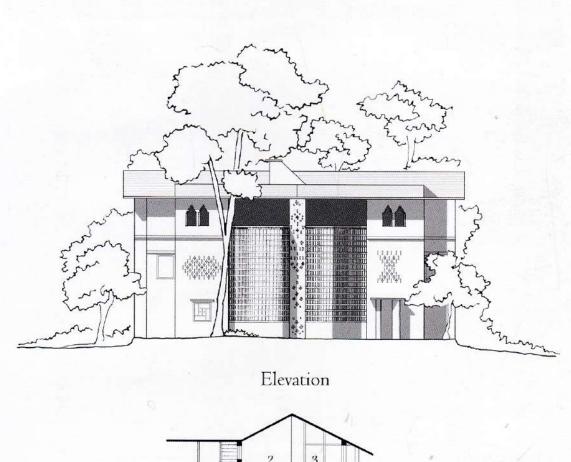


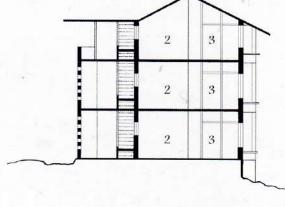






# Women's Hostel - Annexe

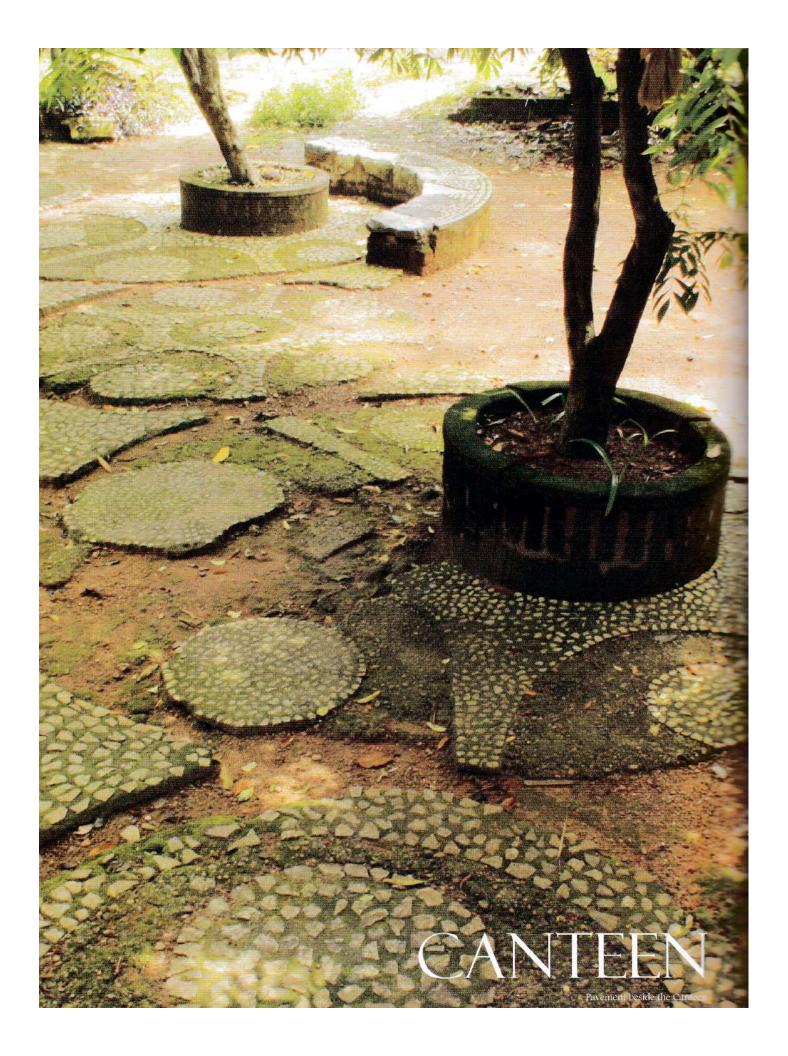




Section

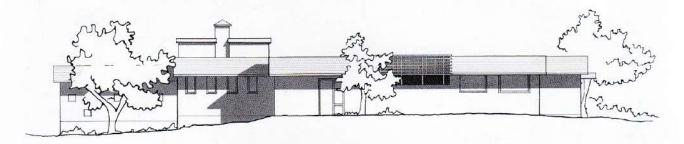
RoomStudy

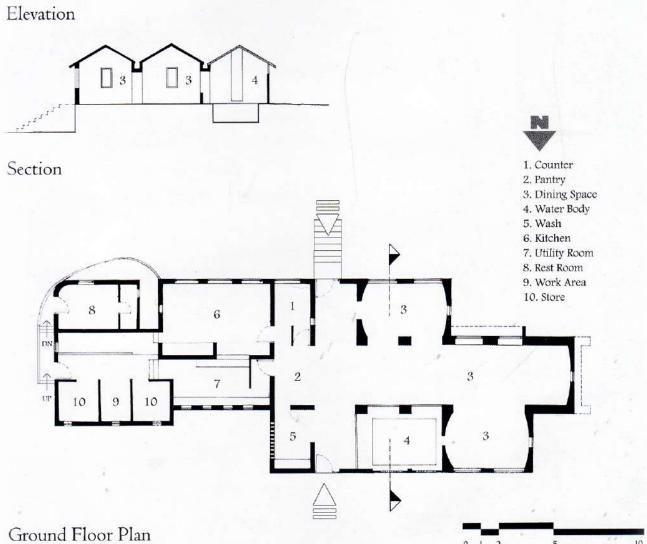
0 1 2 5 10





### Canteen



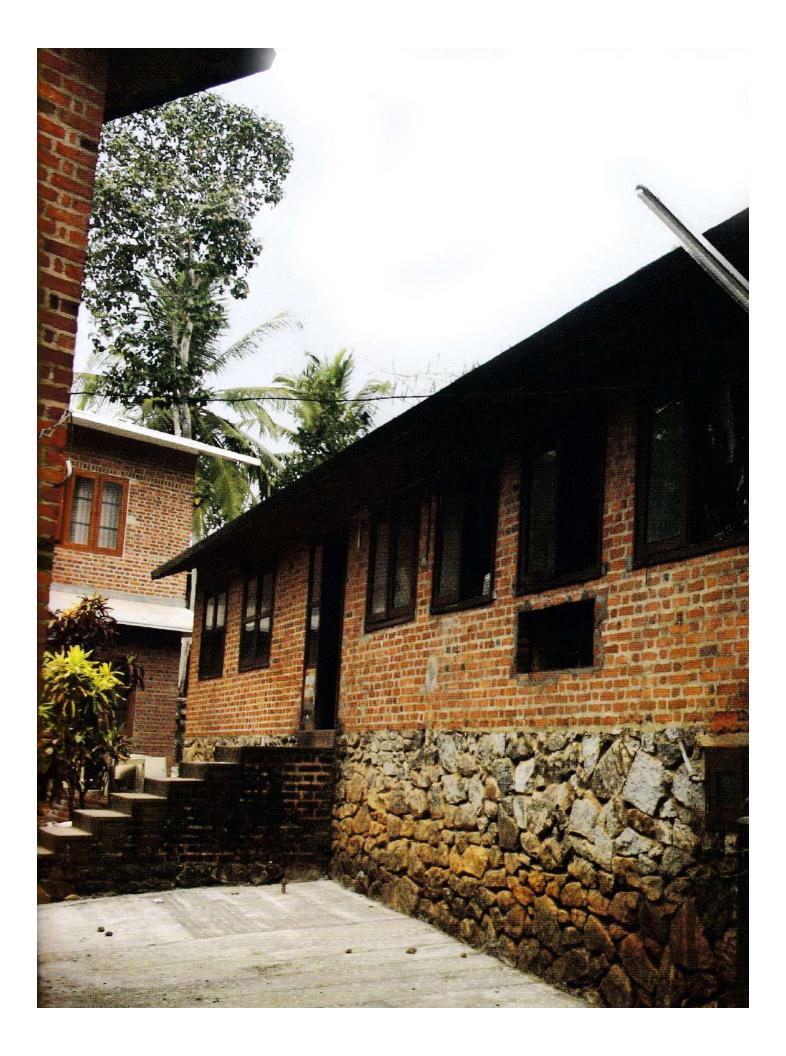


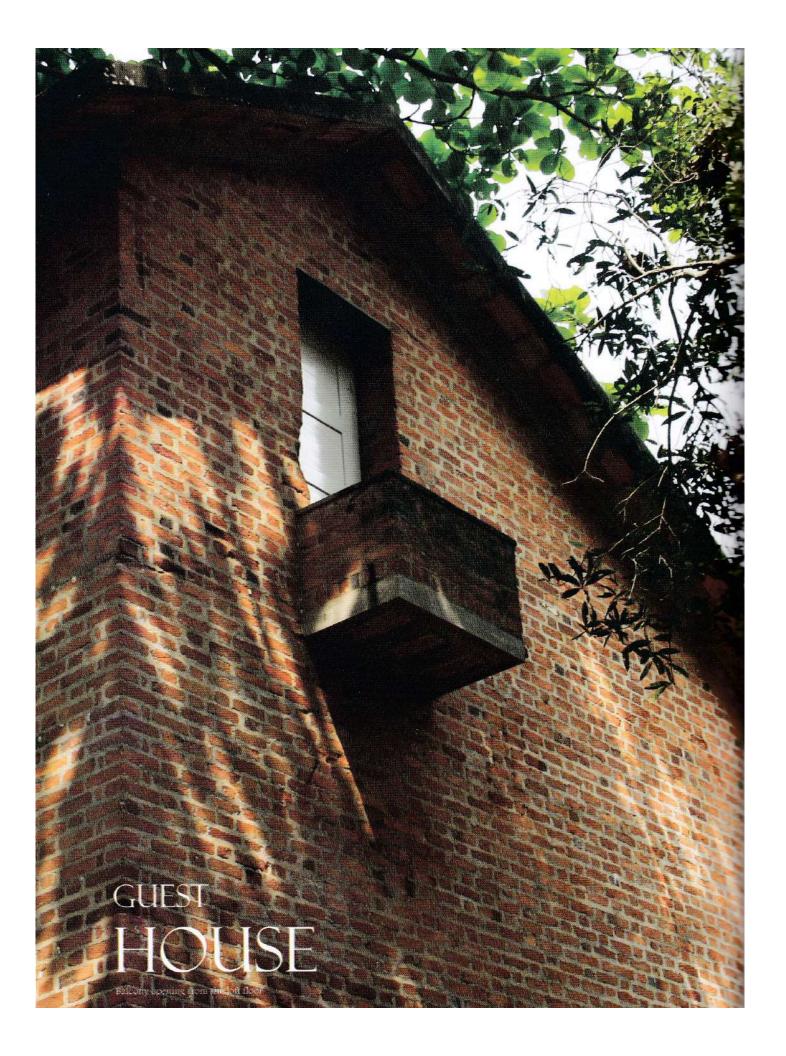


Above: Main dining area of the Canteen Below: Water body beside the dining area

Opposite: Canteen as seen from the Guest House



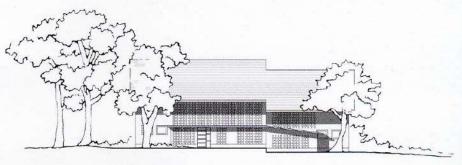




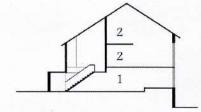




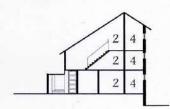
Guest House



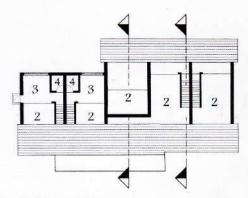
Elevation



Section A-A



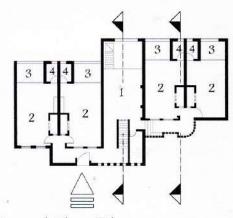
Section B-B



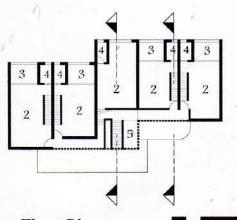
Loft Floor Plan



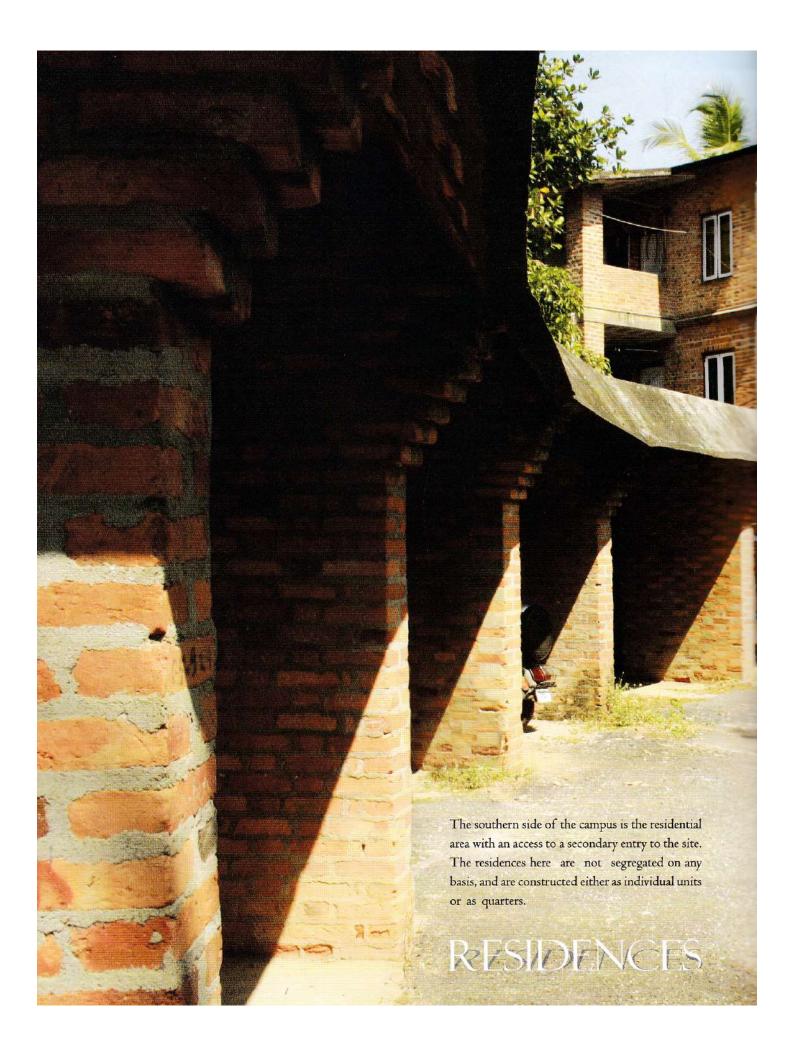
- 1. Common Space
- 2. Guest Room
- 3. Balcony
- 4. Toilet

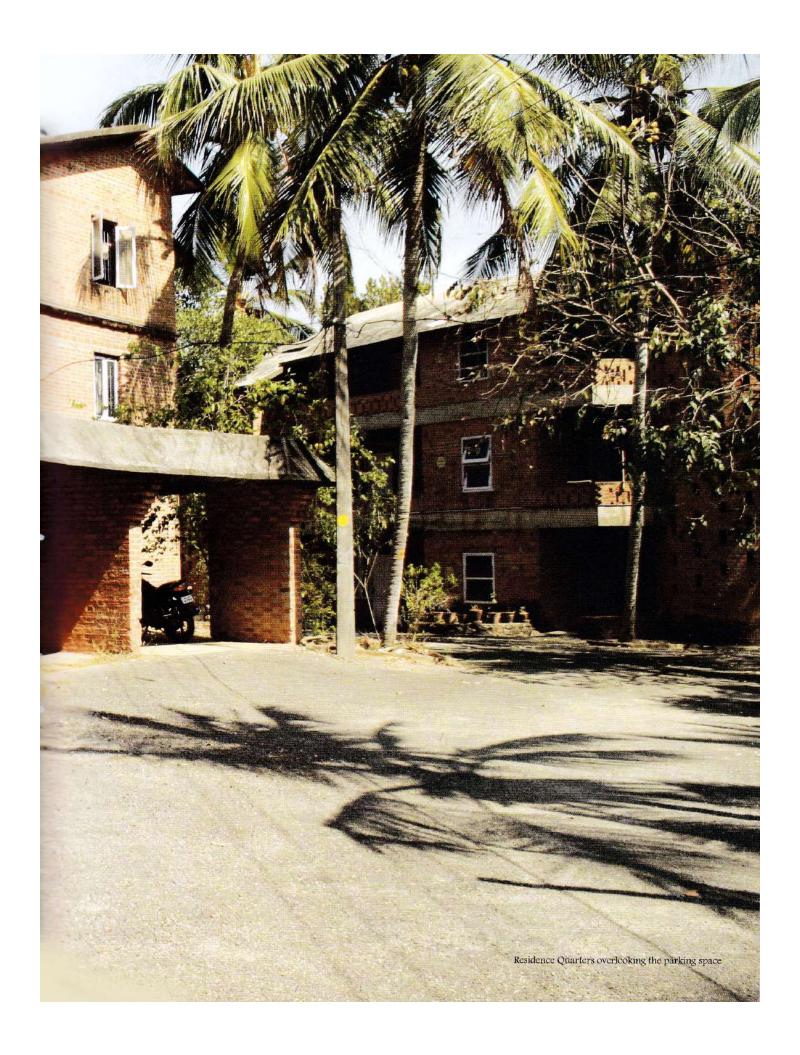


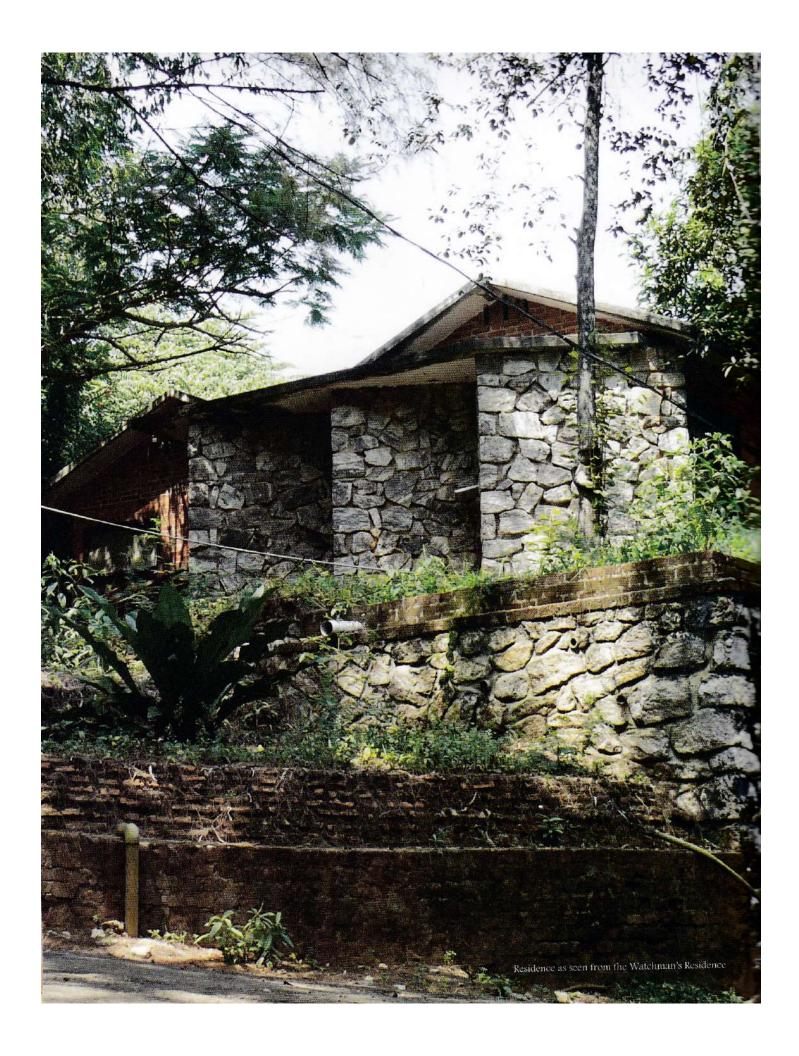
Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

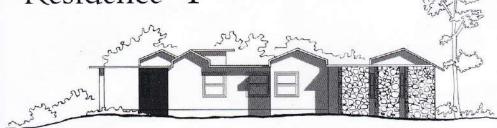




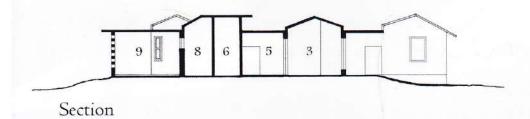


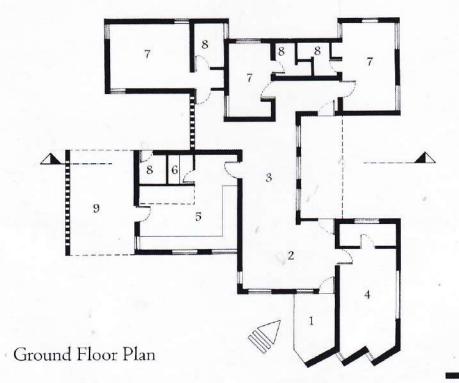






Elevation

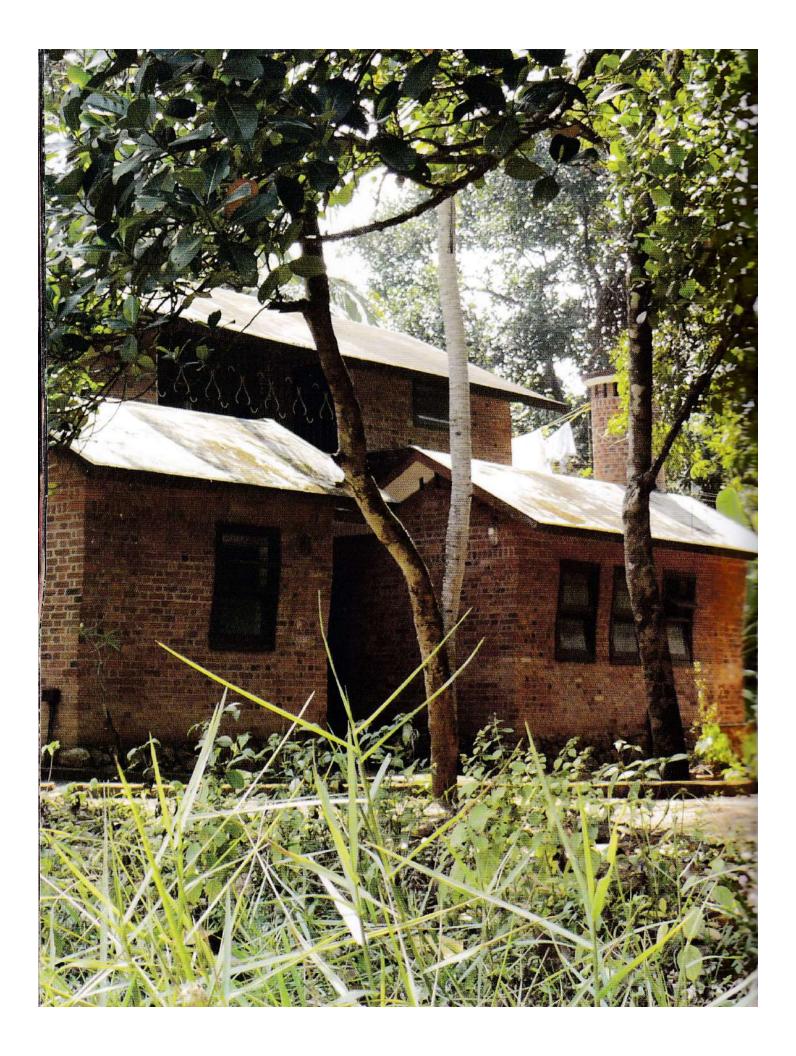




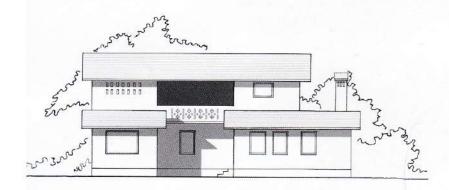


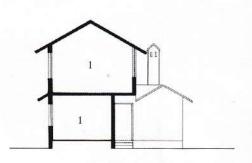
- 1. Entrance
- 2. Living
- 3. Dining
- 4. Office5. Kitchen
- 6. Store
- 7. Bed Room
- 8. Bath

1 2 5





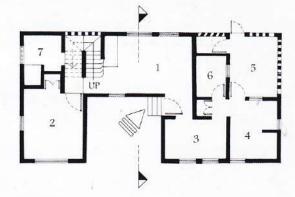




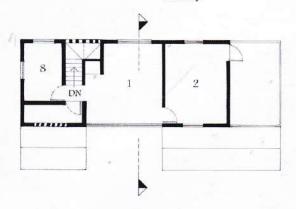
Elevation

Section

- 1. Living
- 2. Bed Room
- 3. Dining
- 4. Kitchen
- 5. Utility
- 6. Store
- 7. Bath
- 8. Study

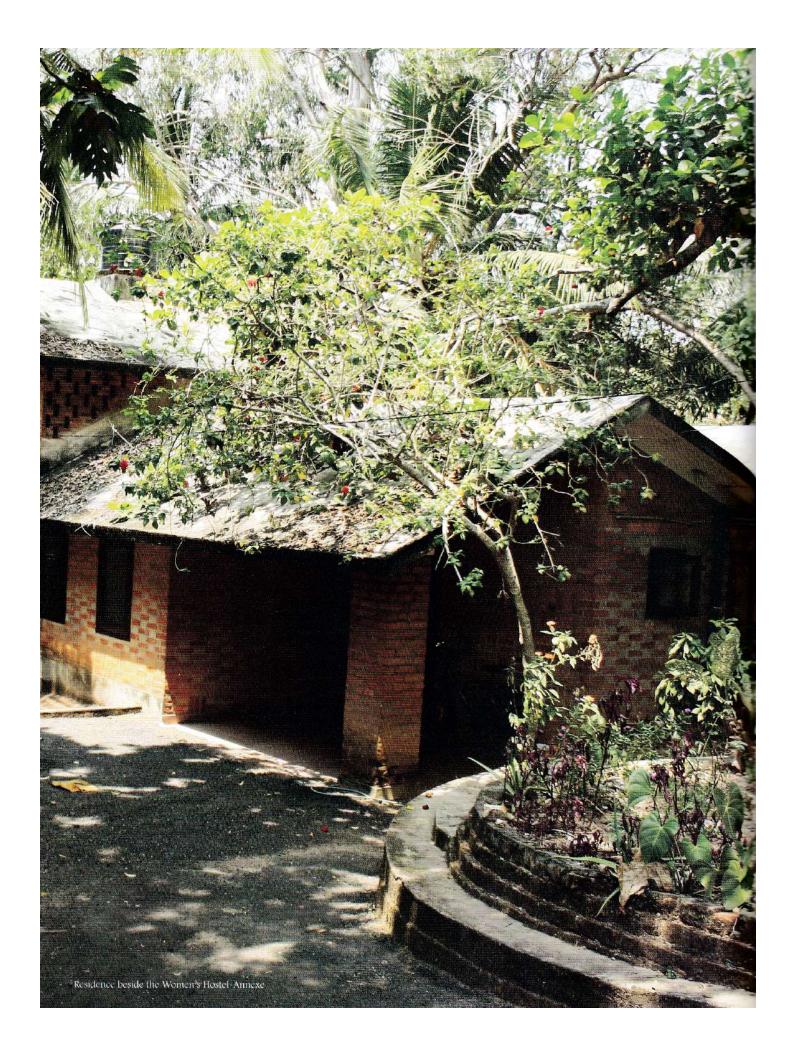


Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

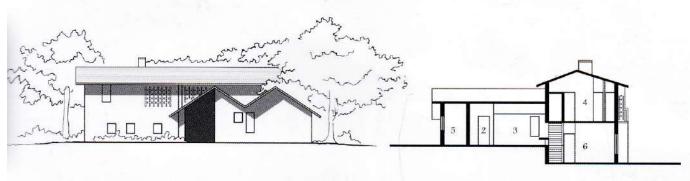








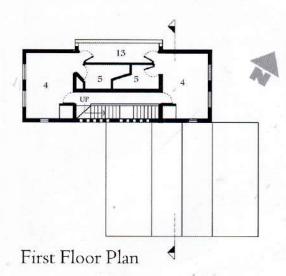
- Living
   Bed Room
- 3. Dining
- 4. Kitchen
- 5. Utility
- 6. Store
- 7. Bath
- 8. Study



Elevation







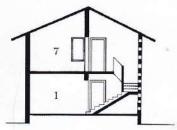








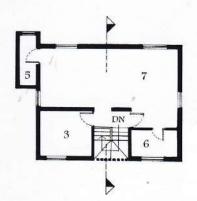
Elevation



Section



Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan

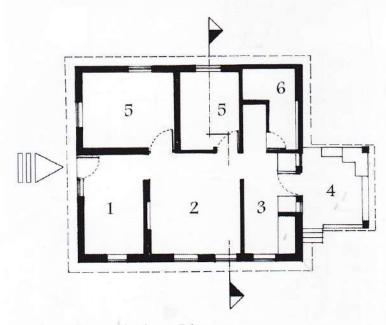
- 1. Living
- 2. Dining
- 3. Bed Room
- 4. Kitchen
- 5. Bath
- 6. Study
- 7. lounge









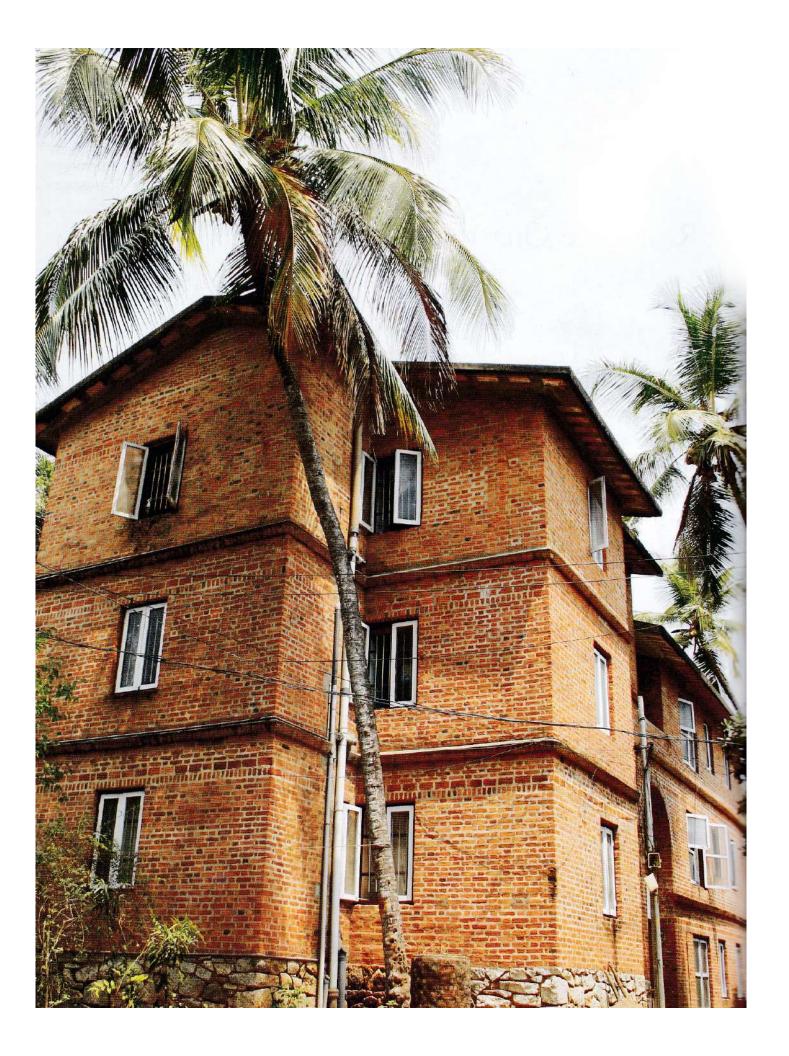


Ground Floor Plan



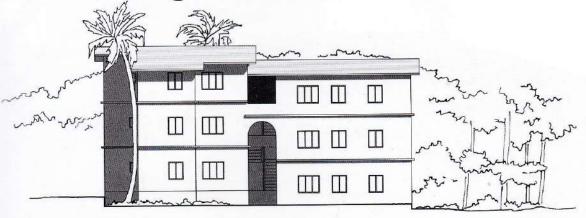
- 1. Living
- 2. Dining
- 3. Kitchen
- 4. Sit-out
- 5. Bed Room
- 6. Bath



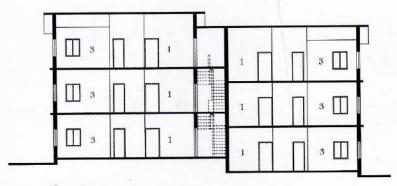




### Residence Quarters -I



Elevation



Section

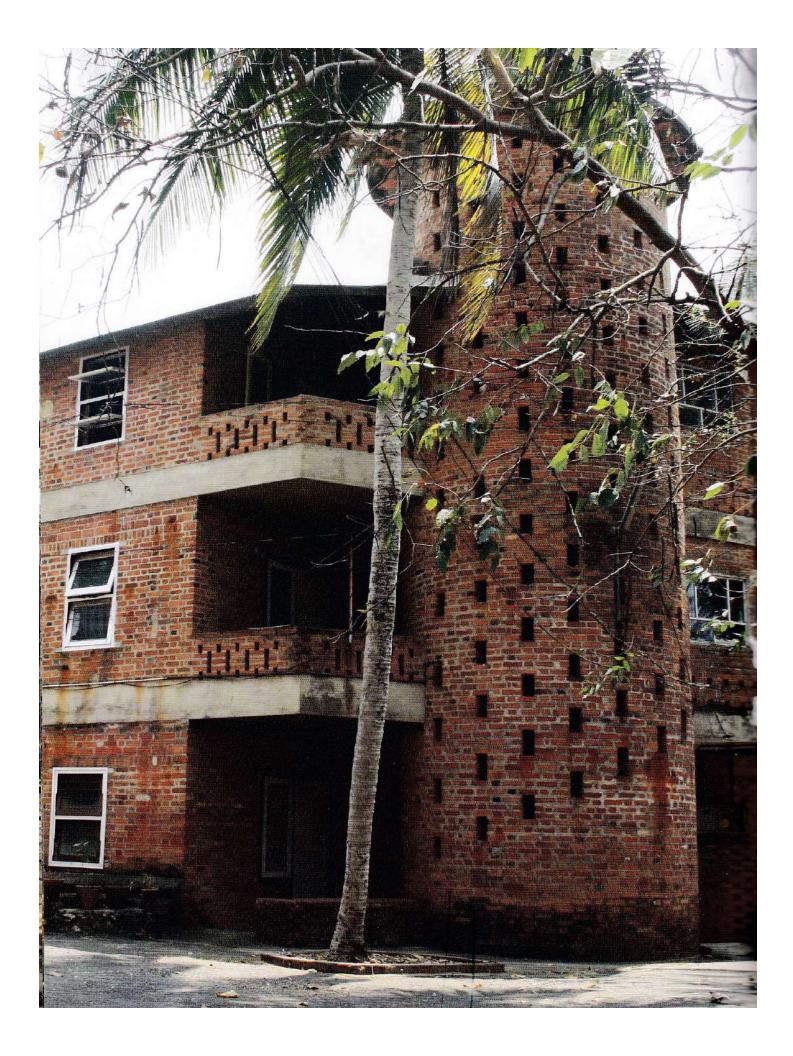


Typical Floor Plan

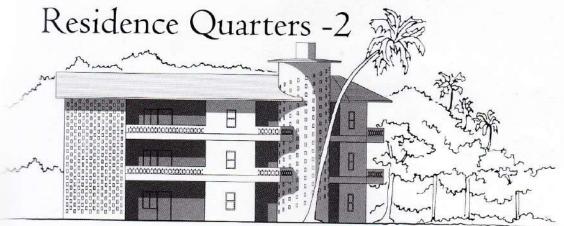


- 1. Living / Dining
- 2. Kitchen
- 3. Bed Room
- 4. Balcony
- 5. Bath

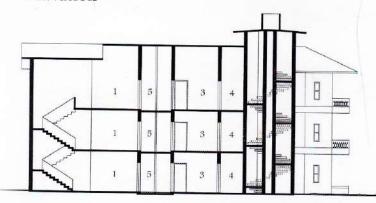








### Elevation



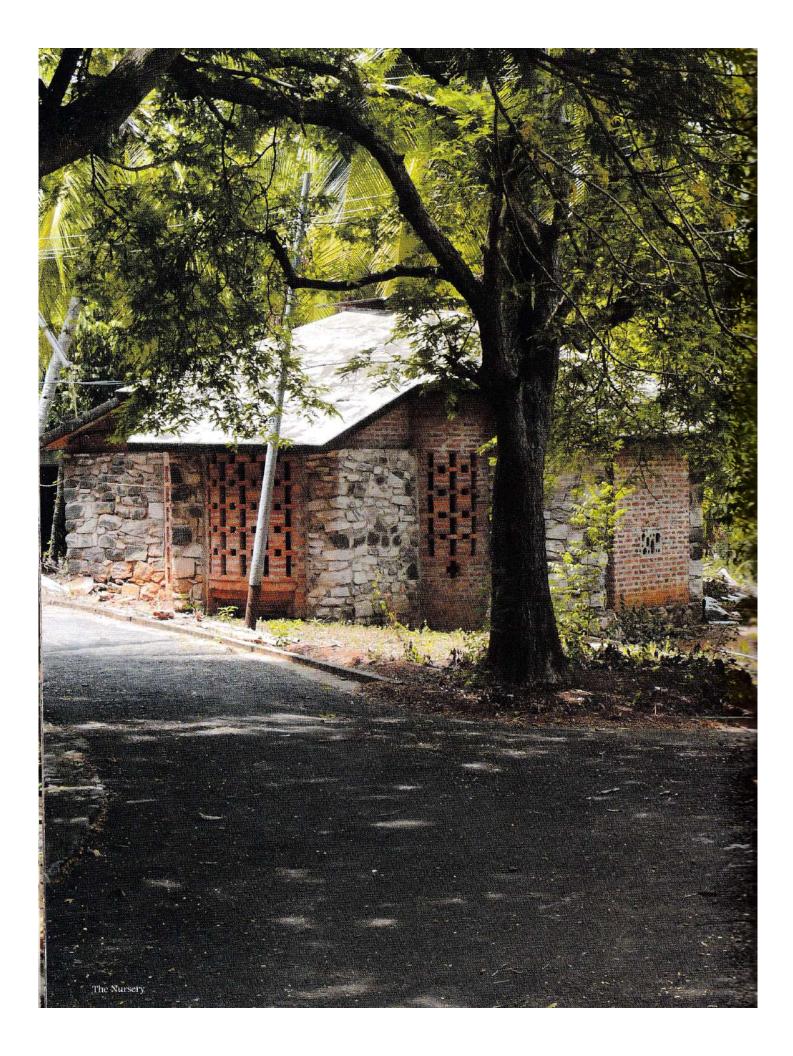
### Section



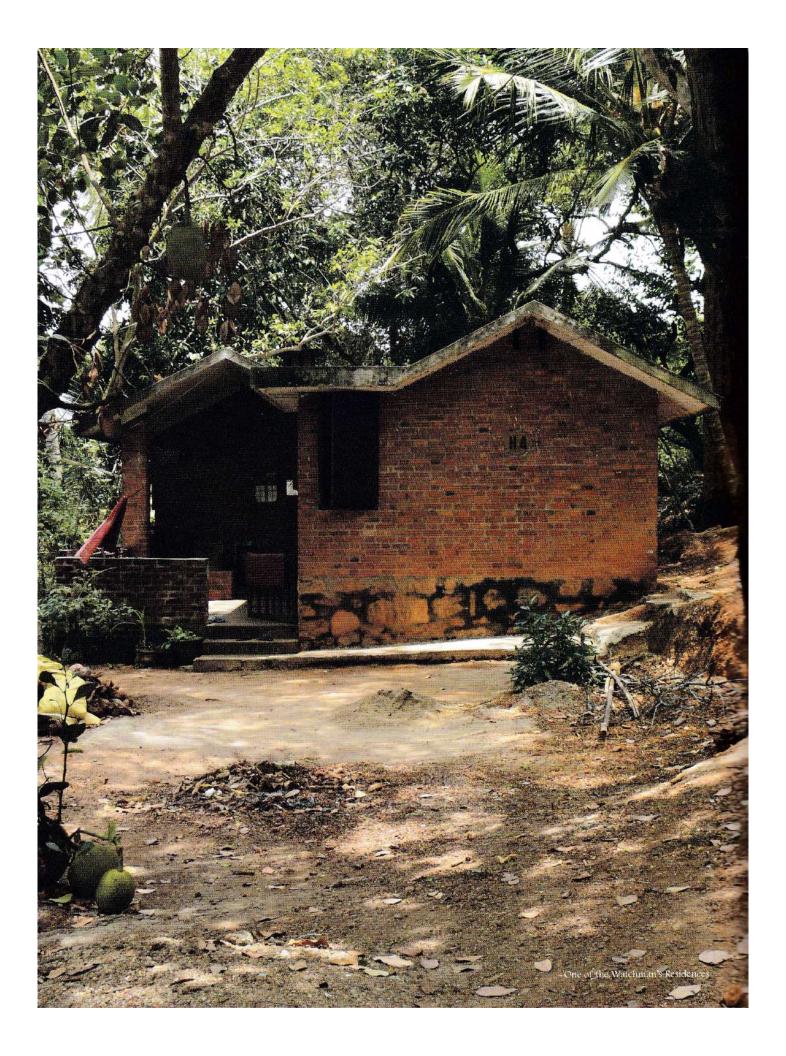
- 1. Living / Dining
- 2. Kitchen
- 3. Bed Room
- 4. Balcony
- 5. Bath



Typical Floor Plan



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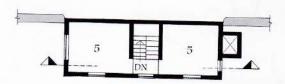
# Watchmen's Residences



Elevation



Section

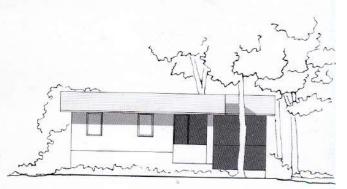


First Floor Plan



## Ground Floor Plan

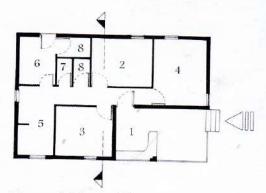
- 1. Sit-out
- 2. Kitchen
- 3. Living
- 4. Bath
- 5. Bed Room



## Elevation



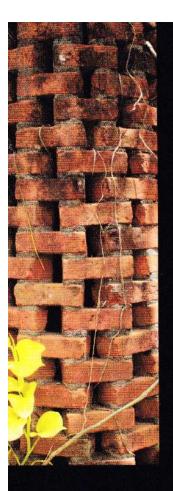
Section

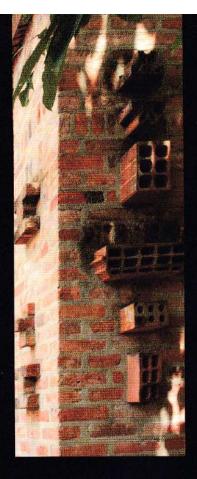


## Ground Floor Plan

- 1. Sit-out
- 2. Living
- 3. Dining
- 4. Bed Room
- 5. Kitchen
- 6. Work Area
- 7. Bath 8. Toilet





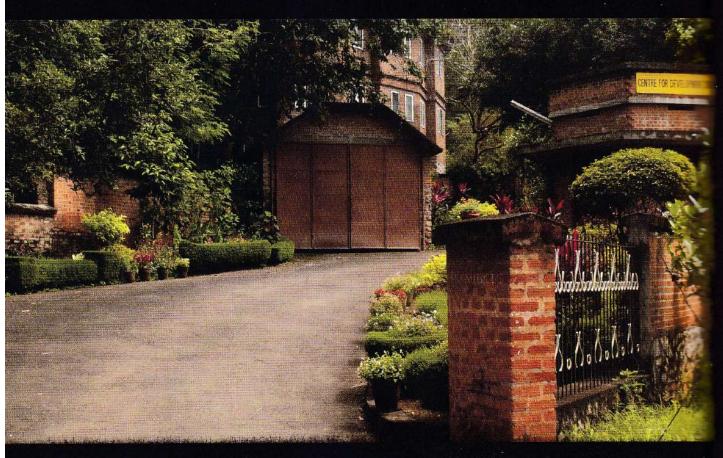


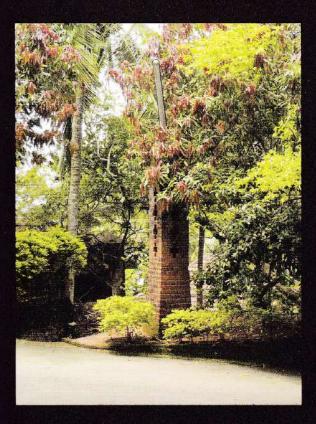
# The campus landscape clearly exhibits

Baker's sense of visual continuity and his concern for nature. At regular intervals one can notice brick sculptures that seamlessly blend into the greenery. On a closer look, every element in fact is placed perfectly to serve a particular purpose, of either a street light, or of a vent pipe or even simply to relate a building to its surroundings.

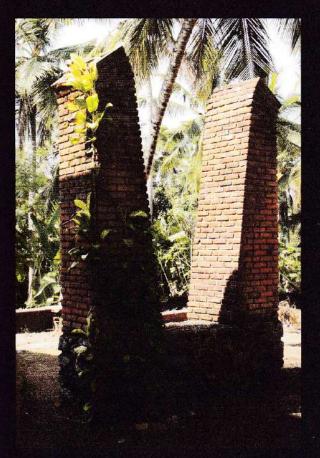
At an early stage Baker himself along with Dr. Panikker chose saplings and planted them in the barren campus, on locations which seemed best suited. Soon the campus was alive with foliage as the building structures rose.

Left End: Brick structure holding the street light Left Middle: Brick pillar as a vent pipe Blow: Turance to the CDS campus



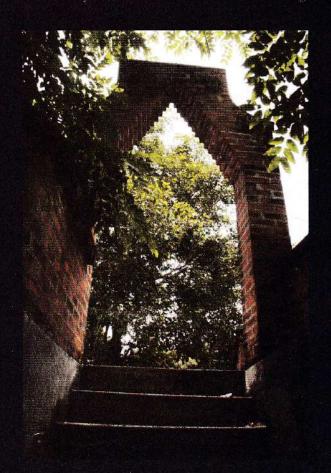


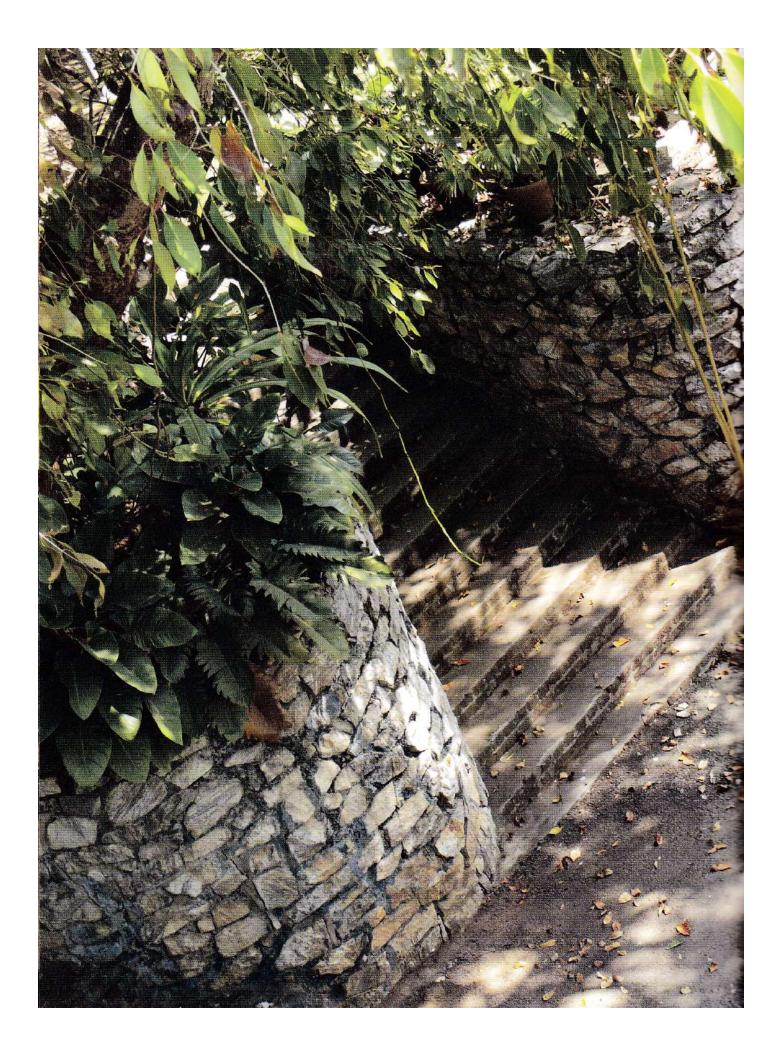
Above: Street light beside the Administrative Building, Below: Brick sculpture beside the Computer Centre





Above: Street light beside the Canteen Below: Gateway structure at the roof of the Administrative Building







Every structure in the campus visually and functionally justifies its shape, position and orientation. Though each one is different from each other, they all share the same construction techniques.

The various cost effective, energy conscious and nature responsive techniques used here, bind the whole campus together as one. Exposed (unplastered) brickwork, beautiful jail patterns, curvilinear forms, efficiently treated open areas enclosed within the buildings, filler slab roofs and ceilings are a few to mention.

The materials used in the buildings are, as Baker would say 'true to nature'.

The exposed brickwork is of country burnt bricks. During the baking of these bricks, the silica in them melts and forms a waterproof coating on its surface. This outer layer is sufficient for the self-protection of these bricks and therefore in effect does not require any additional layer of cement plaster or whitewash. The natural roughness of these country burnt bricks is what gives a distinctive texture to these buildings.

The walls are protected from sunlight and rainfall by projecting roofs slabs. Filler slabs have been used for the roofs, staircases as well as bridges. These are R.C.C slabs with Mangalore tiles placed in between the iron bars, thus filling the space which usually concrete occupies. A filler slab costs about I/3 rd of a usual R.C.C slab. The tiles in these filler slab create a pattern underneath it.

With the oldest buildings that came up in early seventies, the campus is still growing with respect to the requirements, latest buildings being the auditorium that came up in mid nineties and the new library tower in 2007. Time having no effect on the buildings whatsoever; there is hardly any difference between the old and the new ones. In most of the

old buildings like the main block and the hostels limecement mortar was used for construction.

Air circulation inside every building is controlled by the strategically located jali openings that add to the aesthetics of the interiors. It also brings about a play of light and shade in the inner spaces like corridors, stair wells, and waiting lounges. Windows here are pivoted horizontally that can be opened half inclined while it rains.

The buildings use corbels and arches instead of expensive lintels. These exposed brick arches in the buildings are of different types built in different ways.

The unconventional forms of the buildings demonstrate a sensitive and unique way of campus design. The structures are free flowing and organic, and seem to just wind along the curved pathways, creating a harmonious atmosphere.

Absolutely down to earth, CDS is the only institution of its kind. The simplicity that Baker brought about in the campus adds to its serene beauty. Its architecture certainly creates an impact on the viewer as well as the user. Incorporating cost effective and energy conservative approach, yet being absolutely functional, these buildings are perfect examples of an alternative for the future buildings. It's hoped that this campus will lead the way for more of such campuses, buildings and building practices and create an environment sensitive world.



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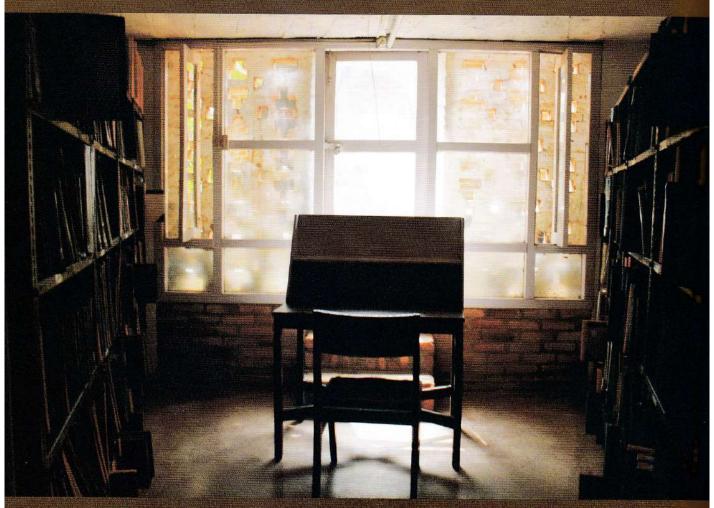
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[http://cuckooscall.blogspot.in/2007/04/farewell-laurie-baker.html]

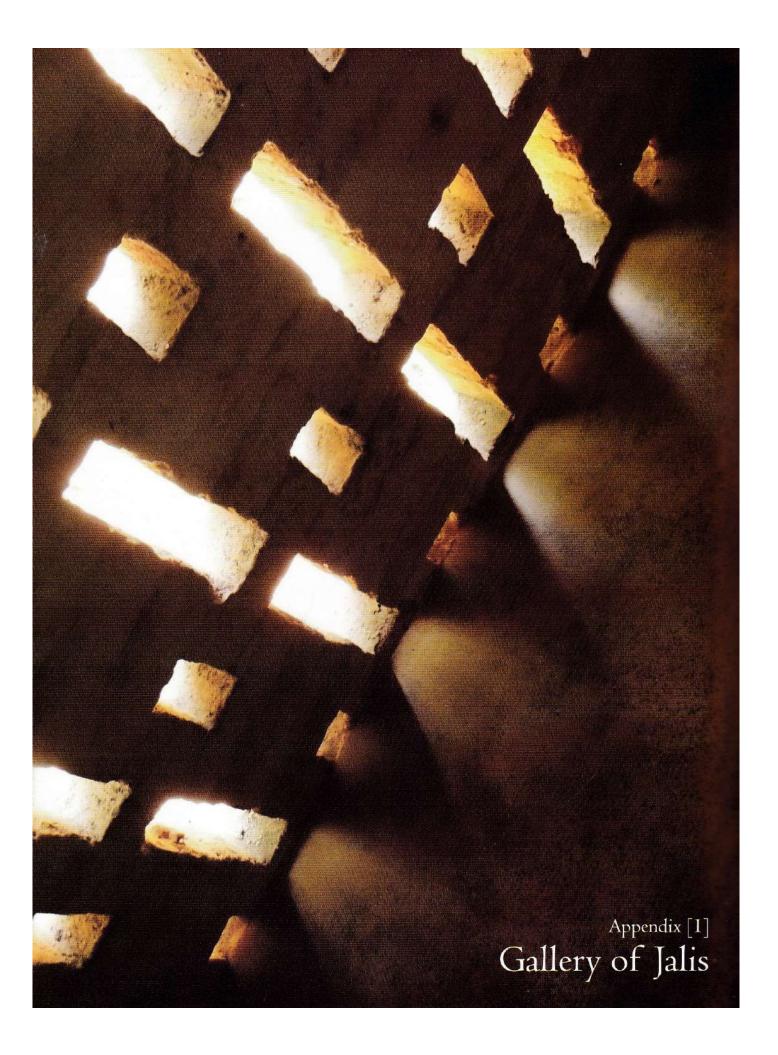
Laurie Baker passes away
[http://riotofreasons.blogspot.in/2007/04/laurie-baker-passes-away.html]

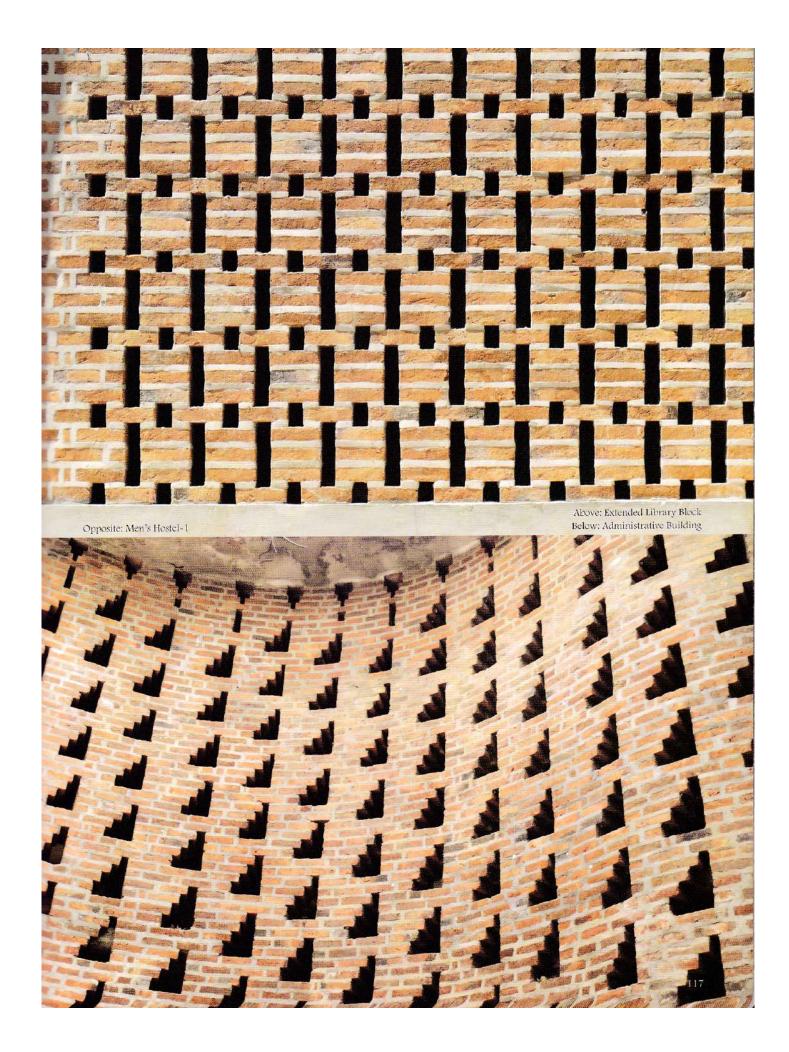
Laurie Baker: The man we will never forget
[http://specials.rediff.com/news/2007/apr/04sldI.htm]

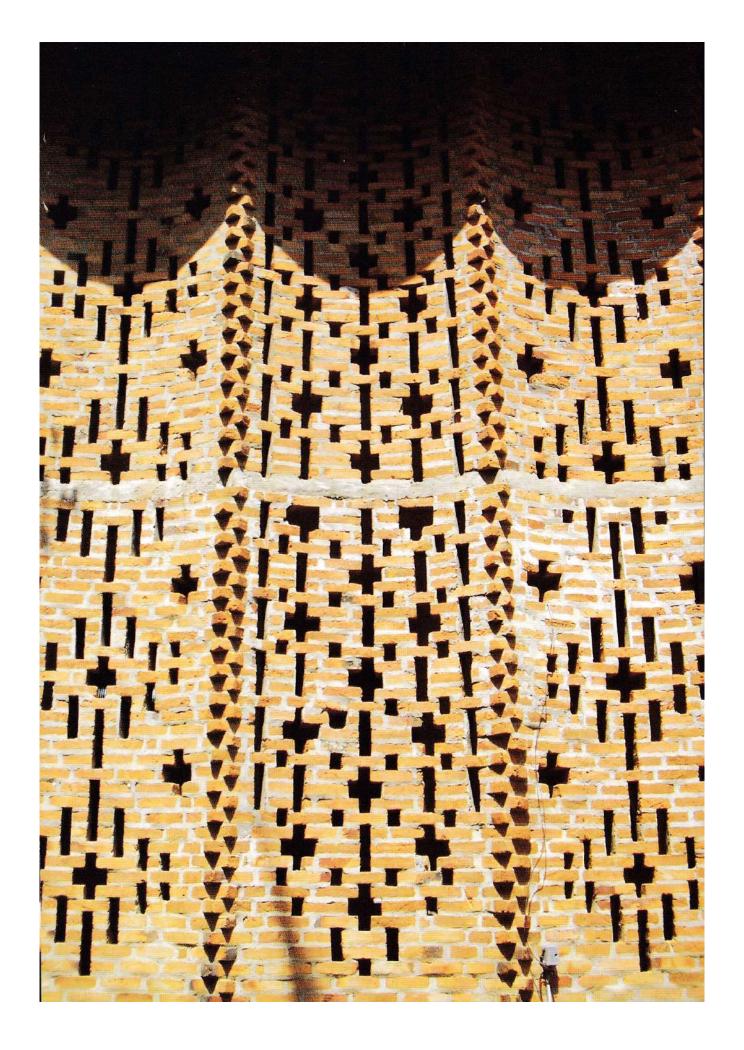
The house that Laurie Baker built...
[http://specials.rediff.com/news/2007/apr/I2sdI.htm]

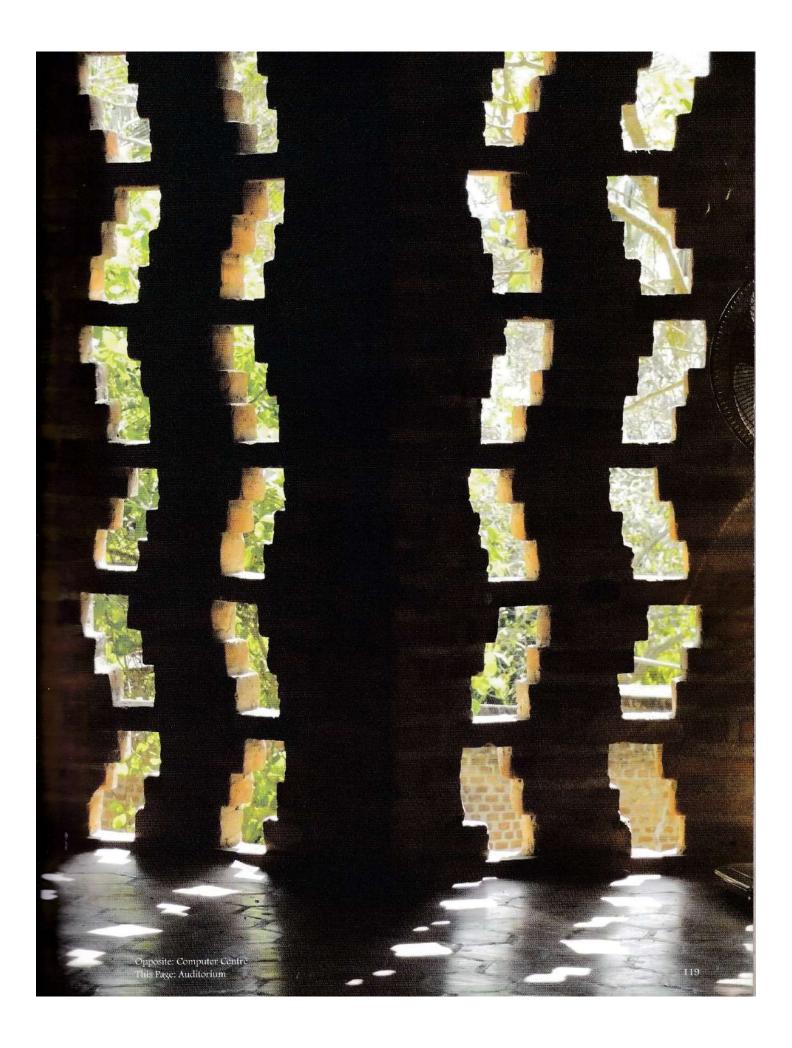
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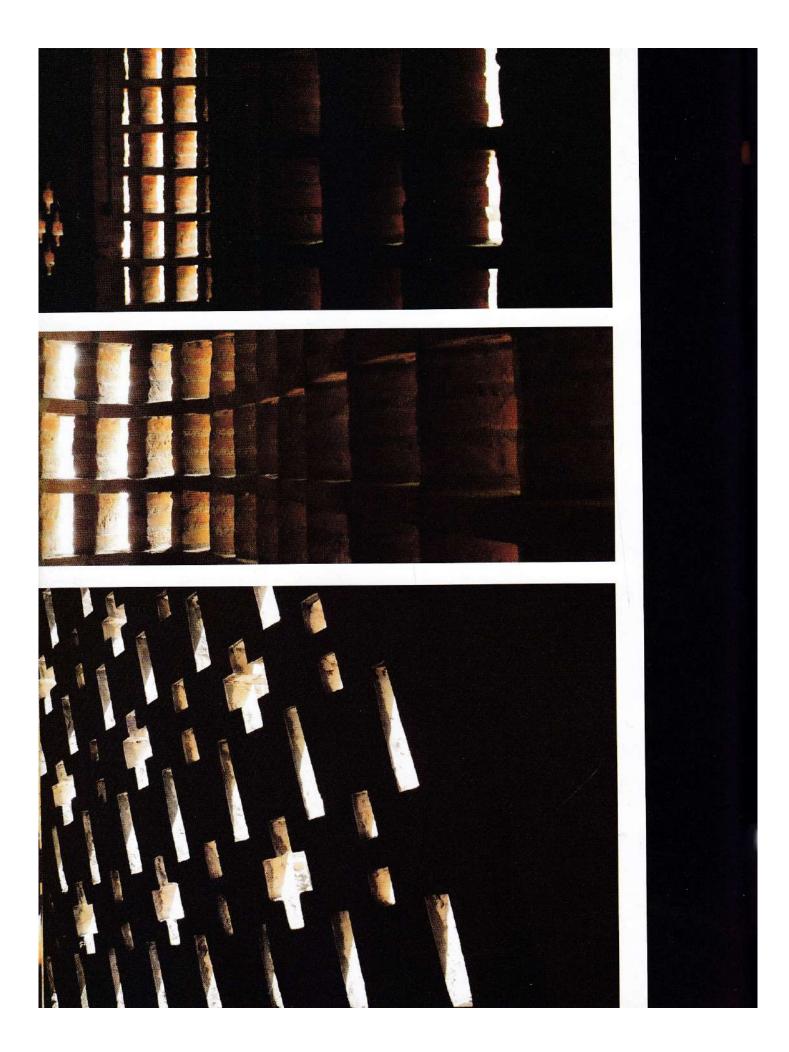
Laurie Baker (1917-2007), Master Architect [http://www.costford.com/lauriebaker.htm]

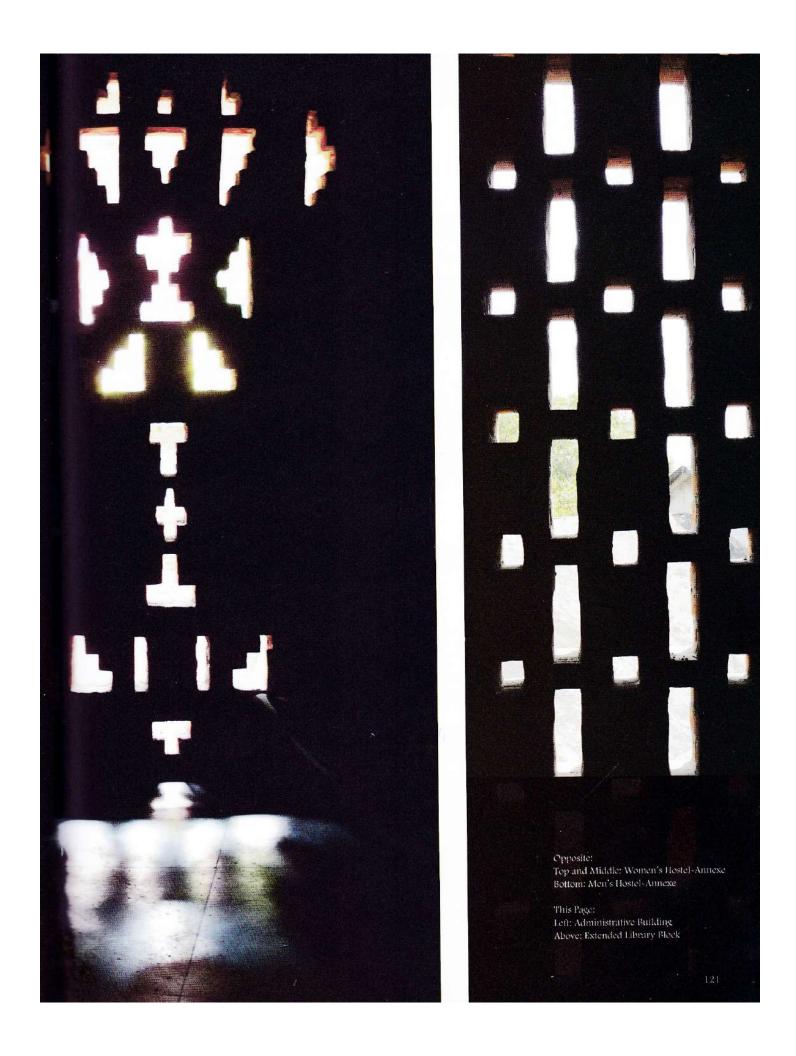


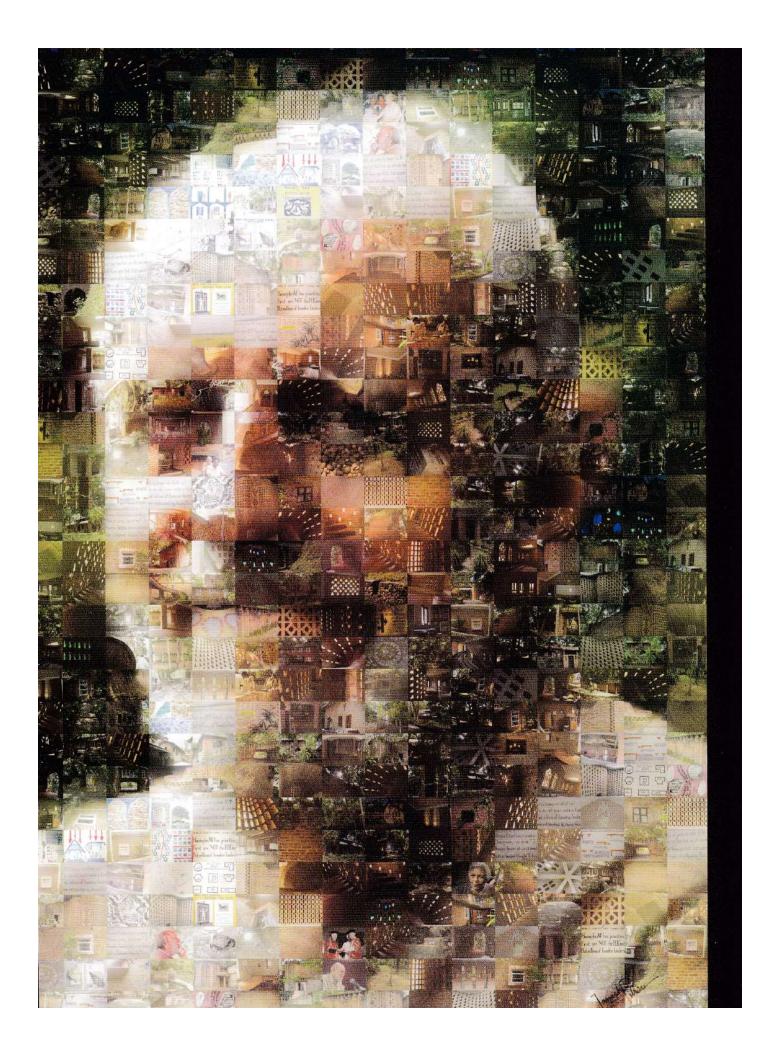












## Appendix [2]

## Baker's Architectural work

### Institutions and Buildings

Leprosy homes for Mission to Lepers across India

Pithoragarh house, school and hospital complex

Nepal Hospital

Allahabad Agricultural University Lucknow Psychiatric Centre, Noor Manzil

Literacy Village, Lucknow Centre for Social Studies, Surat

Ahmedbad & Baroda factories

Ivothi Pumps, Baroda

Children's Village, 1965, Kulashekaram,

Tamil Nadu

Mitraniketan, Vagamon

Christian Mission Service childrens village, Azhagiya Pandiyapuram and across India Houses for the Archbishop of Trivandrum

Tourist Resort near Muttam

Loyola Women's Hostel, 1970, Sreekaryam Loyola Chapel and Auditorium, 1971,

Centre for Development Studies (CDS),

1971, Ulloor St John's Cathedral, 1973, Thiruvella Nalanda State Institute of Languages, 1973,

Nanthancode

Chitralekha Film Studio, 1975, Aakulam Pallikoodam (Corpus Christi), 1972,

Kottavam

Fishermen's Village, 1974, Poonthura

Mitraniketan, Vellanad

Tourist Centre, 1980, Ponmudi

The Indian Coffee House, Trivandrum

Chapel for Sacred Hearts Centre, at Monroe

Island, Quilon

Navajeevodayam, Thiruvalla

Nirmithi Kendra, 1987, Aakulam

CSI Church expansion wing, Paruthipara

Church

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Anakatti,

Coimbatore

Womens Club near Jawahar Nagar AHADS (Attapadi Hill Area Development Society)

Jilla Panchayat Office, Thevally, Kollam Kanyakumari Boat-building Yard Dakshina Chitra, Chennai, 1996 (concept design)

Building Centre at Anna University, Madras Some buildings in Kishkinta, Madras Sewa, Vilappilsala

Chengalchoola Slum Dwelling Units, Trivandrum

Nava Yatra, Vilappilsala, Trivandrum

(now LBC)
Lilly's Chapel in LMS compound

Old age home Deveswam Board Jn., Trivandrum

COSTFORD Campus, Thrissur MRCMPU, Calicut

### Residences

Jayan and Asha, Kakkanad Neeta's Residence **HUDCO** Suresh IAS Colony Abu Abraham, 1989 Major Jacob, 1988, Kulasekharam Leela Menon, 1973 Mr Narayan's Mango house, Vellayani A M Jacob Residence Anirudhin, 1969, Trivandrum Nambudiripaad, 1973, Kesavadasapuram Nalini, 1989, Anayara K N Raj, 1970, Kumarapuram T N Krishnan, 1971, Kumarapuram P G K Panikar, 1974, Kumarapuram Vaidyanathan, 1972, Kumarapuram T C Alexander, 1982, Vikramapuram Hill PJ Thomas, 1972, Kuravankonam Lt Gen Pillai, 1971, Jawahar Nagar P Ramachandran, 1975, Pottakuzhy Ravindranath, 1975, Gourishapattom

Varghese Jacob, 1976, Kottayam K V George, 1987, Karakullam Vasanth Gowarikar, 1982, Manvila Beena Sarasan, 1989, Kowdiar M S Valiathan, 1983, Pulliyankotta K J Mathew, 1984, Vattiyurkavu C T Sukumaran, 1984, Vattiyurkavu P Sivanandan, 1984, Vattiyurkavu Sukhman, 1984, Vattiyurkavu Uma Devi, 1989, Ulloor Anna Mathew, 1986, Kuravankonam K Peter, 1988, Nalanchira Vinay Kumar, 1990, Kunjavuzni K P Kannan, 1991, Priyadarshini Nagar John Kurien, 1991, Babuji Nagar

## Organisational Roles

Served as the Chairman, HUDCO
Member of the governing body of NID
(National Institute of Design), Ahmedabad
Consultant to UPDESCO (Uttar Pradesh
Development Systems Corporation)
Member of the Advisory Board for the
National Building Research Institute
Only non-government member of the
Working Group of the Union Government
Planning Commission
Served in an advisory capacity to the Kerala,
Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments
Served as Chairman of COSTFORD
Fellow of the Centre for Development
Studies

### Notable Projects

International Leprosy Mission Welthy Fisher's Literacy Village, Lucknow Andhra Pradesh Quaker Cyclone Project Latur Earthquake Proof Housing Project Tsunami-proof Housing Project



## Appendix [3]

# Books by Baker

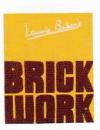
Mud Brickwork Rural House Plans Are slums inevitable? Chamoli Earthquake Handbook Houses - How to reduce building costs Earthquake
Rubbish by Baker
Rural Community Buildings
Laurie Baker's Cost-Redution Manual
Alleppey - Venice of the East- A report
Cost Reduction for Primary School Buildings



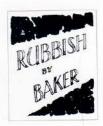




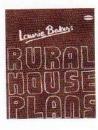


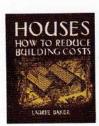


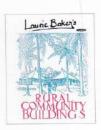








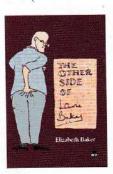


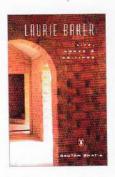




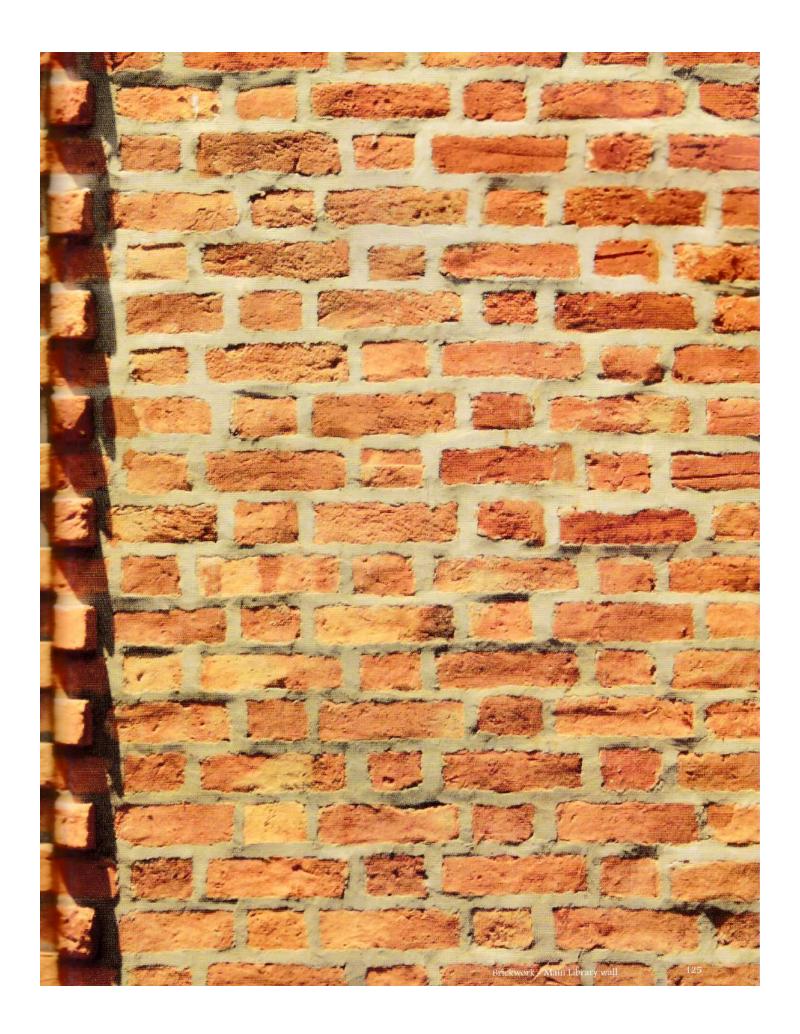
## Noted Publications on Baker

The Other Side of Laurie Baker: Memoirs by Elizabeth Baker | DC Books
Laurie Baker: Life, Works & Writings by Gautam Bhatia | Penguin Publications
A+U (Architecture and Urbanism), 2000:12, No.363, Feature: Laurie Baker | Nobuyuki Yoshida











## Appendix [4]

## **COSTFORD**

COSTFORD is a non-profit organization that has been modeling alternative design and construction strategies for energy savings, cost reduction, and community improvement for nearly three decades.

The Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD) was founded in 1985 by Mr. C. Achutha Menon, former Chief Minister of Kerala; Master Architect, Dr. Laurie Baker; Dr. K. N. Raj, economist and also founder of the CDS; and Mr. T. R. Chandra Dutt.

COSTFORD includes social workers, educators, architects, engineers, scientists, technologists, and others representing grassroots architectural practice operating as a living laboratory with eco-friendly design and social consciousness as a path to positive societal change.

The organisation, with the Main Centre in Thrissur and I3 sub-centres in Kerala, creates and implements design and construction strategies sensitive to energy conservation, cost, and use of indigenous building materials and practices.

COSTFORD fosters awareness, action and advancement relating to urban slum rehabilitation and rural development by:

- promoting local level planning for decentralised empowerment

- conducting leadership and skill training
- developing multi-disciplinary technical support teams
- supporting research, development and use of appropriate modern technologies
- fostering human resource development at all levels with special attention to women.

COSTFORD has carried out massive rural development projects for Central and State Government agencies. Collectively COSTFORD has been able to realise about 20,000 buildings in Kerala.

For its core activities, COSTFORD is supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India; the Department of Rural Development, Govt. of India; the Department of Local Self Government, Govt. of Kerala and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

Baker has served as the Chairman of COSTFORD and was closely involved in its activities.



## Appendix [5]

## Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies

The Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies (LBC) was created in 2009 by friends, students and admirers of Laurie Baker and with the active support of COSTFORD to propagate his philosophy of sustainable development through affordable and environmentally compatible building construction. To advance this objective the LBC is engaged in research, extension, training, documentation, dissemination and networking. At its core, it is intended to include such areas as design and use of appropriate materials for buildings, creation of support facilities such as sanitation and drinking water, waste management, water harvesting, land development, promotion of non-conventional and ecofriendly sources of energy and creation of awareness of the need for sustainable development. The LBC is registered as a society under the Travancore-Cochin Scientific Literary and Charitable Societies Act XII of 1955.

### The LBC has started a number of activities such as:

- Exposure training programmes for students of architecture: In collaboration with the National Association of Students of Architecture (NASA), around 700 students participated in this programme in the year 2012.
- Training and visitation programme: Students from India and abroad participate in this programme that includes lecture sessions, site visits, interactive sessions with videos and films.

- Seminars and workshops: These are conducted on selected subjects such as alternative approaches to architecture and building construction, renewable sources of energy and slum improvement.
- Summer schools: These are intended to give training to students interested in the area of habitat and coming from such disciplinary backgrounds as architecture, civil engineering, renewable energy, town planning, social work, development economics and other related areas to issues of habitat and development.

The LBC Campus is located in the Nooliyodu Village in Vilappilsala Panchayat, 12 kms away from the centre of Trivandrum (Thiruvananthapuram) city and 18 kms from the Trivandrum International Airport. The 3.4 acre (1.35 hectare) site is an undulating piece of land that was a stone quarry but now dense with trees and other flora and fauna. The campus at present has five buildings that represent the last set of buildings personally designed and built by Laurie Baker.

## Appendix [6]

# Contacts

## T. R. Chandra Dutt

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COSTFORD Main Office, Ayyanthole, Thrissur - 680003, Kerala, India. Tel. +91 487 2365988 | +91 487 2366388 Fax. +91 487 2366388 costford@sancharnet.in

## P. B. Sajan

Joint Director, COSTFORD Member Secretary, LBC

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www.costford.com

## Dr. K.P. Kannan

Chairman, COSTFORD & LBC

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Phone: +91 474 2796493 Mob: +91 9495700298

#### ALAPPUZHA

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### PONNANI

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### MALAPPURAM

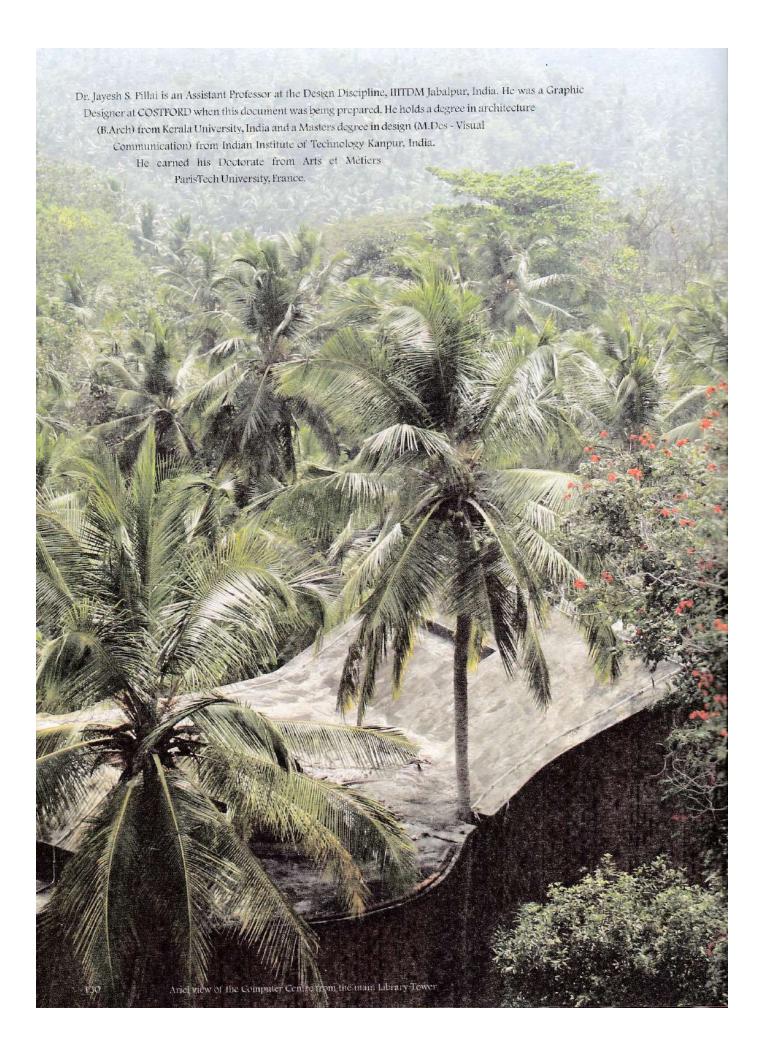
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### KOZHIKODE

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The Architecture of

### Laurie Baker is

a natural extension of who he is as a person. Having dedicated his life to serve the marginalised and the underprivileged, his buildings are a reflection and expression of his concern for the greater good of society. Baker, a British architect whose chance meeting with Mahatma Gandhi in the 1940s started him on a lifelong career of designing cost-effective and environmentally respectful buildings in India.

Among Baker's works, CDS
stands out as a landmark
project in his portfolio. Over
the years, the Centre has
attracted a steady stream of
architects and architectural
students, who come to be
introduced to the work of
Laurie Baker in a place that
best exemplifies his
approach to architecture.

The

# Centre for Development

Studies was conceptualised in 1970, as an institute of applied economics research by the noted economist Dr. K. N. Raj and Mr. C. Achutha Menon, the former Chief Minister of Kerala along with other eminent Indian economists. The main objective of the Centre was to promote research and teaching in the disciplines relevant to development. It was the intension that the Centre would concern itself with development problems relating to the country as a whole, though it was also recognised that, for securing a clearer perception of these problems, disaggregated analysis at the grassroots level would be necessary.

From the outset the Centre was conscious of the need for economising in the expenditure on buildings. The architectural concepts developed by Laurie Baker seemed particularly, appropriate for an institution devoted to the study of economic and development problems. Consequently the design and construction of the buildings for the Centre was entrusted to Baker as a challenge to the economists to demonstrate and prove their theories by the way in which they built and ran their institution.

The picturesque campus on a 9-acre site built on a hill in the city of Thiruvananthapuram combines rippling brick walls coiled around trees, circular courtyards, a network of creative walkways, roof terraces, and a remarkable seven-storied library tower.

This masterpiece of Baker, will always influence the thinking of architects around the world.

A S T E R P I E C E

A MASTER ARCHITECT
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